FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 AUGUST 1984

Israel

President Hayim Herzog announced over Jerusalem radio on 5 August that he has entrusted Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres with the task of forming a new government, based on the fact that during his consultations with the various Knesset factions, the largest number of Knesset members recommended the candidacy of Peres, who also heads the list that obtained more votes than any other list. The radio had reported that 60 of the 120 Knesset members recommended Peres for the prime ministership, 54 recommended Shamir, and 6 did not express a preference. Herzog also said that he emphasized to Peres the widespread will of the people for a government that symbolizes stability and unity in a situation that all parties had agreed has deteriorated into the "most difficult and dangerous economic circumstances that the state has experienced since its establishment."

In accepting the offer to form a government, Peres stated in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio that he will act to establish a "government of rapprochement" that will have to combat the economic problems, secure the safety of Galilee and then return the soldiers from Lebanon, renew the peace process, secure equal rights for all citizens, and maintain the status quo in religious matters. He later disclosed during a press conference carried by the radio that he is planning to establish the "broadest possible government, a government of national unity." With this aim in mind, Peres scheduled a meeting for 6 August with the Likud leader, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the radio reported. While acknowledging Herzog's decision to entrust Peres with forming a government, Shamir expressed his belief that the Likud still will be able to form either a narrowly based or a unity government, according to IDF radio.

Red Sea Explosions

A Liberian-registered tanker hit a mine in the Red Sea late on 4 August, causing one of its main tanks to explode, AFP reported citing a source in Cairo. The vessel was believed to be still afloat, AFP said, despite earlier reports that it was sinking. The incident occurred toward the southern end of the sea, west of the Saudi coastal town of Al-Qunfudhah.

Commenting on the series of explosions in the Red Sea, "observers" cited by MENA called for urgent measures to safeguard shipping and ascertain the causes of the incidents, which are a "serious threat" to navigation in the area. Israel is also concerned about the explosions, according to Jerusalem radio, and Israeli political sources consider it likely that Iranian or Libyan agents laid the mines from bases in the PDRY. Earlier, a PDRY commentary carried by Aden radio condemned attempts to provoke tension in the Red Sea but warned against using such incidents as a pretext and justification for "imperialist" military intervention in the area.

Gulf War Diplomacy

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who delivered a message on the situation in the Gulf from the Kuwaiti amir, KUNA reported on 5 August. The Syrian leader also received a message the same day from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i, delivered by Iranian Revolution Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, Damascus television noted. Before meeting Al-Asad, Rafiqdust held talks with Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, who stressed Syria and Iran's agreement that the Iran-Iraq war should not be expanded, that no Gulf state should become involved in the conflict, and that oil tankers should not be attacked, according to Damascus radio. Rafiqdust affirmed that Iran will not attack oil tankers passing through the Gulf and that his country has no designs on Arab land, the radio added.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi delegation headed by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim discussed the Gulf situation in talks with officials in Kuwait and Bahrain, according to KUNA and Manama radio. In another Gulf development, a Saudi Royal Air Force squadron arrived in Oman to conduct a joint exercise with the Sultanate's Air Force, Salalah radio noted.

Jordan

Military Delegation to USSR — A military delegation headed by the Armed Forces commander in chief left for the Soviet Union on 5 August, Amman radio reported. The Jordanian delegation will visit a number of Soviet military centers during the visit, which is in response to an invitation from the chief of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff. In a related report, sources in London cited by KUNA stated that the Jordanian delegation will conclude a deal for the purchase of "sophisticated" Soviet weapons, including missiles, aircraft, tanks, ships, and radars.

Bomb Explosion — A "minor explosion" occurred on 3 August near a U.S. Embassy storage depot, an Interior Ministry spokesman disclosed in a statement broadcast by Amman radio.

Iran

Aftermath of Hijacking — The three Lebanese who hijacked an Air France Boeing 737 last week have asked Iran to grant them political asylum, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement reported by IRNA. The Iranian authorities are continuing to investigate their case, he noted. As for French press allegations that the Iranians assisted the hijackers by allowing them access to weapons in their luggage, the spokesman maintained that the hijackers took arms and explosives from the cargo compartment under the pretext of obtaining medicine for one of the passengers.

Commenting on the hijacking the Islamic Republican Party newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* stressed that the "children of Islam" will continue to deal "the necessary blows" against the French Government, terming the "diversion" of the French plane "an act against terrorism," according to AFP.

In Paris, former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr speculated that the hijacking was arranged by certain groups in the Iranian regime in order to undermine those officials who favor improved relations with the West, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported. According to Bani-Sadr, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni failed to express an opinion on the hijackers because he is very ill.

Majlis Vote — The Majlis voted 163 to 21 in favor of the vote of confidence called for by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, IRNA reported on 5 August. Twenty-five deputies abstained in the vote, which followed a 6-hour debate during which the prime minister reviewed and defended his government's record. Supporting the motion, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the government's successes though he admitted that affairs could have been managed better, according to IRNA.

Lebanon

Political Developments — The security plan for the Ash-Shuf mountain area will top all other issues at the Cabinet session on 8 August, Beirut radio reported. The Cabinet was expected to consider a new formula for this plan during an extraordinary session on 6 August but the meeting was canceled because contacts in this regard "failed," the radio noted. Earlier, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stressed that he has obstructed the security plan because the PSP wants to be sure that when the Army enters the Druze areas, it will also enter the Maronite areas controlled by the Phalangists. In his remarks, which were broadcast by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Junblatt also warned that his forces will not lay down their weapons until "a minimum of balance" has been established in the army.

Military/Security Situation — Although Beirut radio reported that the Lebanese Army fired at Israeli gunboats that approached the Beirut coast on 3 August, the IDF spokesman subsequently denied any knowledge of this incident, according to Jerusalem radio. In southeastern Lebanon, an IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their vehicle hit a mine in the 'Ammiq area on 5 August, Jerusalem television reported. Around 270 "attempted attacks" against the IDF have been recorded since April, according to Jerusalem radio. In a separate development, Beirut radio reported that the PSP has reached a security agreement with Al-Murabitun, the Sunni militia in Beirut which has clashed with PSP forces in the past.

Polyakov Visit — Diplomatic sources cited by Beirut radio confirmed that Lebanon welcomes the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East problem, as proposed by Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov during his talks with Lebanese officials in Beirut over the weekend. The Lebanese asked Polyakov for a "positive" Soviet stand toward Lebanon's demand for a renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, the sources added.

Afghanistan

President Babrak Karmal returned to Afghanistan on 3 August after completing a general medical checkup in the Soviet Union, Kabul radio announced.

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'Arafat Approves USSR Middle East Initiative

LD032341 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat received yesterday the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunisia and received from him the text of the Soviet initiative concerning the Middle East issue.

On this occasion, Mr Yasir 'Arafat gave the Soviet charge d'affaires a message, which was described as important, to the Soviet leadership concerning the approval of Palestinian leadership of this initiative which comes in the shadows of the grave circumstances through which the Arab region is passing.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat also conveyed thanks in the name of the PLO Central Committee and of the Palestinian people to the Soviet leadership for its concern for the just cause of the Palestinian people.

This concern was expressed in the Soviet initiative when it specified the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine and specified the issue of Jerusalem as the central issue.

USSR Spokesman Cited on Proposals

JN031934 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] A USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that his country is pursuing a firm policy that supports the restoration of Arab rights.

He affirmed that the USSR insists on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

In a statement to Arab journalists in Moscow yesterday, he described the USSR's recent proposals for finding a just, peaceful solution to the Middle East issue as an integrated project in which new ideas embrace the progress of events in the region and the Fes Arab summit resolutions.

The Soviet spokesman attacked the swift U.S. and Zionist rejection of the USSR proposals, which call for convening an international conference for achieving a just peace in the Middle East. He said that the U.S.-Zionist poistion did not come as a surprise and that it reaffirms the true nature of U.S. policy, which opposes achieving a just peaceful settlement.

He said that Tel Aviv and Washington described the USSR proposals as unconstructive because both realize that a just peace in the Middle East will eliminate U.S.-Zionist domination in the region.

The USSR spokesman affirmed that the intransigent U.S.-Zionist stand necessitates more efforts to convene such a conference. He said that the important thing is to increase the political pressure on the United States to ultimately convince it of the futility of the policy of giving comprehensive support to the Zionist entity.

Further on Fatah Central Committee Meeting

Meets 3 Aug

JN032019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 3 Aug (INA) — The Fatah Central Committee met here tonight under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This meeting is one of a series of meetings which began on 29 July to discuss the latest Palestinian developments.

The Fatah Central Committee is expected to hear a report by Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, member of the committee, on his recent visit to Algiers during which he led the Fatah delegation to the preliminary meeting for the expanded Palestinian meeting to be held in Algiers shortly.

Yasir 'Arafat will brief the Fatah Central Committee on the results of his Arab and Asian tour and the results of the Islamic Good Offices Committee meeting, which was held last month. The committee will also discuss the problem of convening the 17th PNC session before 15 September 1984.

'Arafat Attends Session

LD032327 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee resumed Friday evening in Tunis its session with the attendance of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, after a 2-day stoppage due to the meetings of the organization's Executive Committee.

Talks Near Completion

LD041629 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 4 Aug (KUNA) — Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas announced today that the Central Committee will tonight end its open session meetings, which began here 29 July.

'Abbas told KUNA that the final communique, which is expected to be issued tomorrow, will not depart from the framework of the 30 July statement announced by a spokesman for the Central Committee.

Fatah Official on Meetings

GF051908 Doha QNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 5 Aug (QNA) — The Fatah Central Committee [FCC] has stressed the need to hold the Arab summit conference and to prepare the appropriate atmosphere to ensure its success and enable it to overcome the current crisis and restore Arab solidarity to face all challenges facing the Arab homeland.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Tunis, FCC member Khalid al-Hasan said that the FCC met last night in a session which lasted until early this morning. The FCC devoted special attention to the activities of the Islamic Good Offices Committee in trying to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war, particularly its recent meetings in Saudi Arabia, and the efforts the PLO is making to end this war.

Al-Hasan said the FCC was also acquainted with the reaction to the recent Soviet proposals, which the PLO has supported, and also with the international political situation surrounding the PLO cause. He noted that the FCC devoted much time during its meetings, which began a week ago, to studying the Palestinian people's situation under the Israeli occupation, the outcome of the Israeli election, their possible effects of this on the future of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

Asked about the preparations for holding the PNC meeting, Al-Hasan said the FCC affirmed the need to adhere to the Aden and Algiers agreements and to the overall dialogue. He said all obstacles and difficulties must be overcome so that the PNC meeting can be held in Algiers no later than 15 September. The FCC discussed reports by Fatah branch organizations on the progress of work of organizing Fatah and the whole Palestinian arena, Al-Hasan added.

Central Committee Ends Meeting

LD052323 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee tonight concluded its 3-day meetings in Tunis in the presence of PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, Yasir 'Arafat.

Sources close to the meetings said that the committee will be issuing a political statement either later tonight or tomorrow morning explaining the most important issues discussed.

Fatah Official on Meetings

JN060738 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 6 Aug (INA) — Fatah Central Committee [FCC] member Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym] has emphasized that the Iraq-Iran war occupied the major part of the committee's deliberations during the meetings that ended here last night. In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis, Abu Mahir said that the FCC reviewed the measures taken by the Islamic Good Offices Committee to halt the Iraqi-Iranian fighting and to deploy an Islamic peace-keeping force in the area after halting the fighting.

Concerning the Palestinian dialogue, Abu Mahir said that the FCC agreed to hold a new meeting with the Democratic Alliance during the coming few days in order to define a final stand on the expanded Palestinian dialogue and the convocation of the PNC on its fixed date, 15 September 1984.

He said that the committee reiterated its support for the dialogue and its commitment to its position toward the Aden-Algiers agreement. He added that the committee decided to work for the convocation of the PNC on its fixed date.

Concerning the committee's stand on the Soviet Middle East initiative, Abu Mahir explained that the FCC supports this initiative, which he described as a development of Brezhnev's initiative and a move by friends to end the region's tragedies. He said: From this premise, our evaluation of this initiative was good. He noted that a political statement will be issued tomorrow about the committee's meetings, which will include an evaluation of the Soviet initiative.

Fatah Meeting Statement Delayed

LD061054 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 6 Aug (KUNA) — The Central Committee of the Fatah movement here today postponed for the third time issuing a statement about its meetings which ended Saturday night. A statement was supposed to have been issued yesterday, Sunday morning. An official source at the Central Committee has told KUNA that the draft committee is in the process of preparing this statement.

Fatah, Arab Liberation Front Delegations Meet

LD041854 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] A Fatah Central Committee delegation, consisting of Brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] the deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym] Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Abu al-Adib [Salim as-Za'nun] and Abu al-Hasan [name unknown] conferred with a delegation of the Arab Liberation Front, consisting of Brothers 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, the front's secretary of the Central Committee, Abu Mahmud, [name indistinct] Shihatah, and Salim al-Bardini on 2 Aug in the Tunisian capital.

This meeting came within the continuous consultations between Fatah and the Arab Liberation Front, and within the framework of the efforts which are aimed at uniting the Palestinian arena in order to confront the challenges to which the PLO is exposed.

The Fatah delegation reviewed the events which took place on the Palestinian arena and the results which were reached in the Algiers-Aden agreement.

The Fatah delegation listened to the observations of the delegation of the Arab Liberation Front concerning the agreement.

The two sides stressed the following points:

First, the sides confirmed the adherence to the resolutions of the PNC in its (? 12th) session, especially the rejection of the Camp David accords, Reagan's initiative, and all the solutions and initiatives aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue and violating the proven national rights of our people;

Second, they stressed the necessity of preserving the national unity of our people and the unity of the PLO, and the commitment to protect the PLO and defend our independent national Palestinian decision;

Third, [they agreed on] the necessity of adherence to the agreed upon date for holding the PNC, which is not later than September 1984, and rejecting any attempt to delay this date;

Fourth, they considered the national unity of our people as the sacred purpose of our people in this critical stage. The two sides also stressed the necessity of soon fixing a date for the national dialogue, which would include the PLO Executive Committee, the Bureau of the PNC, and the secretaries-general, in order to draw the necessary arrangements for holding the PNC on the decided date.

Fifth, the two sides stressed the rejection of any attempt to divide the Palestinian arena or violate the independent Palestinian decision or any attempt to impose control over the will of our Palestinian people.

Sixth, the two sides stressed the necessity of exerting every effort and escalating efforts in this stage in order to consolidate the struggle of our people inside the occupied land in every military and political field and to develop the abilities of our people to confront the schemes of the Zionist enemy which are aimed at Judaizing the land and evicting the people.

Last, at the end of the meeting, the two sides agreed to continue the meetings for the continuous consultations and coordination between them.

New Round in Palestinian Dialogue To Be Held

LD051847 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), has announced that a new round of democratic dialogue will be held in mid-August between the four-side Democratic Alliance and a delegation representing the Fatah Central Committee in order to complete the discussions held during recent dialogues in Aden and Algiers.

Hawatimah said that during this round, discussion will also cover matters that had been agreed upon during the Aden and Algiers dialogues and the extent these agreements have been implemented.

In a press statement, Hawatimah disclosed that during the recent round in Algiers between the leaders of the Palestinian Democratic Alliance and the Fatah Central Committee agreement was reached in principle on holding the meeting of the PNC's 17th session on 15 September. He said: We are doing all we can to prepare for the convening of the PNC session on schedule.

Hawatimah Will Not Join PNC Until 'Arafat Resigns

GF052025 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has said that the problem with the National Alliance is that it insists on a rebellious solution to the 'Arafat situation, outside the framework of the PLO legitimate institutions. He said that he will not go to the PNC meeting until 'Arafat resigns.

In a statement to AFP, Hawatimah said: The National Alliance experimented with military solutions and failed. The Democratic Alliance is against rebellious and military solutions to the PLO problems. We believe that they are committing a grave error by continuing the policy of turning their backs on the PLO and its legitimate institutions. They have no choice but to search for solutions to their problems within the framework of the comprehensive national dialogue and the legitimate institutions. The PLO cannot remain paralyzed, especially as we are expecting turbulent political situation and probably military incidents in the wake of the Israeli and U.S. elections. We must organize our internal affairs in the PLO and its political alliance with Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces before the end of this year.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah added: The Aden agreement does not prevent the PLO from establishing normal relations with Jordan on the grounds that Jordan, or any other country, respects the Arab summit resolutions. The Aden agreement specifies the form of agreement between Jordan and the PLO. Any relation between the PLO and Jordan at the expense of the Rabat resolutions is denounced by the Aden agreement. Therefore, the agreement does not forbid visits and normal relations between the PLO leaders and the Arab countries, including Jordan, except for Egypt because of the Camp David Accords.

Salah Khalaf on Restoring Ties With Syria

GF031755 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has called for the restoration of relations between the movement and Syria as soon as possible and pointed out the possibility of settling the differences between the two parties.

In a press statement that will be published in London tomorrow, Brother Abu Iyad said that the recent visit to Damascus by Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, during which he had a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad has paved the way for restoring relations between the two parties.

Abu Iyad denied that improving relations with Syria will have adverse effects on Jordanian-Palestinian relations and pointed out that there has been an improvement in Jordanian-Syrian relations.

KUNA Cites Hawatimah on PLO-Syrian Relations

LD031802 Kuwait KUNA in English 1622 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, Aug 3 (KUNA) — A joint Algerian-South Yemeni delegation is expected in Damascus within the next few days to attempt to speed up the twin processes of inter-Palestinian reconciliation and entente between the Syrian Government and the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement, a Palestinian leader said here Thursday. Nayif Hawatimah, who heads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) told KUNA that the delegation's visit comes as part of the buildup to a long-delayed forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinians' parliament.

Hawatimah's organization, alongside three other groupings which together constitute the Palestinian Democratic Alliance, agreed last month after prolonged discussions with the Fatah Central Committee to convene the PNC, as part of a series of political and organizational accords designed to heal inter-Palestinian rifts.

But the DFLP leader affirmed that the Aden agreement between Fatah and the Democratic Alliance made clear that the PNC should only be called after "comprehensive political and organizational agreement" was reached by all Palestinian groupings, a reference to those opposition organizations forming the "National Alliance" which is opposed to the Aden document.

Hawatimah said the National Alliance — composed of a breakaway wing of Fatah, the pro-Syrian Al-Saiqa group, and the small Popular Front-General Command and Palestine Popular Struggle Front organizations — had adopted a stance which he described as "opposition for opposition's sake".

He said the National Alliance had, ever since rifts within Fatah began to get out of control in May last year, adopted a "coup mentality" towards inter-Palestinian differences.

The Democratic Alliance, on the other hand, while agreeing with many of the opposition coalition's policies and principles, considered it imperative for all reforms and changes to take place through democratic dialogue within legitimate Palestinian institutions, primarily the PNC, Hawatimah added.

The National Alliance was determined to depose 'Arafat as PLO Executive Committee chairman before the PNC session, while the Democratic Alliance believed that the PLO leader's fate should be decided by the council itself, he explained.

Nonetheless, Hawatimah was critical of recent statements by 'Arafat on relations with the Jordanian and Egyptian Governments, which he described as violations of the Aden accords.

But he said that it had been made clear to the Fatah Central Committee that it was responsible for ensuring that its leader abided by the agreement.

Hawatimah affirmed meanwhile that the Democratic Alliance — which as well as the DFLP contains the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front — would continue talks with the Fatah leadership, the National Alliance, and "direct dialogue with the Palestinian masses" to consolidate support for the Aden agreements "without resorting to solutions involving the balances and compromises of Arab regimes."

"As we see it, the Aden agreements are coming under attack from two sides," Hawatimah said, affirming the Democratic Alliance's determination to ensure that whether 'Arafat or anyone else held the PLO chairmanship after the PNC session, the leadership of the organization would in practice be collective. On the other hand, the National Alliance's stance "will flounder on the rock of the Palestinian people's rejection of the destructive coup mentality adopted by the alliance," the DFLP secretary-general said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials here said that the Algerian-Yemeni delegation's arrival in Damascus would coincide with a visit to the Syrian capital by Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

Polyakov would focus on moves to mend relations between Fatah and the Syrian leadership, following an initiative launched earlier by Soviet Deputy Premier Geydar Aliyev, the sources said. They added that the Soviet envoy would also seek to provide support for the Aden agreement which Moscow saw as a sound basis on which PLO unity could be re-established.

Fatah Efforts To Soften Syrian Stand Continue

JN050957 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Aug 84 pp 1, 22

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Excerpts] During its recent meeting under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee decided to send members Hamid Abu Sittah and Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani to Damascus, where they will be joined by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, in order to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They will attempt to soften the Syrian stand toward giving the green light to the National Alliance, which comprises As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, and the Popular Struggle Front, to return to the dialogue with the Democratic Alliance, consisting of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front. This dialogue is preparatory to the comprehensive Palestinian dialogue proposed in the Aden document that was signed by the Fatah movement and the Democratic Alliance as a step toward convening the PNC.

Among the Palestinian efforts aimed at softening the Syrian stand was a visit to Moscow by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the DFLP. He sought the help of the Soviet leadership, particularly following the Syrian leadership's warning to the Democratic Alliance that it had to halt the dialogue with the Fatah Central Committee and that the two alliances were committed to issuing a document. This document would include removing Yasir 'Arafat from the PLO leadership and convening the PNC without Fatah and the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front, unless they agree to the National Alliance's program, which places all the Palestinian cards with the Syrian leadership.

Reports from Damascus say that Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, is still waiting to meet with Syrian leaders as part of the moves aimed at resolving the crisis, which was created by the National Alliance's rejection of a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue.

A PFLP leader in Amman said he expected things to become clearer in the next 2 days. He did not express any optimism on softening the Syrian stand, but he was not completely pessimistic either, especially following increasing talk of an initiative by Khalid al-Fahum that has yet to be revealed. Reports from Damascus say an atmosphere of harmony prevails Al-Fahum's relations with the National Alliance.

Voice of PLO Raps Al-Asad's LE MONDE Statements

JN041926 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1635 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Syrian president's call for separating the Lebanese issue from the Middle East problem, which was included in his recent statements to the French newspaper *LE MONDE*, confirms the soundenss of the reports that were revealed by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* last week, in which the newspaper cited a secret publication that is issued in London and has a limited circulation in Europe and the Arab world.

Among the serious information included in this secret publication is that the negotiations that have been taking place in Geneva since last June between Israeli and Arab delegates aim at arranging the Middle East situation and alleviating further tension through settling all aspects of the Lebanese issue. The secret publication says that these negotiations did not, in the least, deal with the crux of the Middle East problem and its basic issue, the Palestine question.

The secret publication affirmed that negotiations have and are taking place on two major issues. The first major issue deals with the security arrangements in Lebanon and the resulting limited mutual withdrawals by the Israeli and Syrian sides. The first major issue also deals with what has been called the Israeli security arrangements in occupied southern Lebanon, including all the details on this subject.

The second major issue deals with a strategy regarding the oil pipelines in the Middle East. In other words, to redraw a plan for the pipeline system in the region. Of course, this will take place in a manner that will serve the negotiating parties and those who patronize these negotiations; namely, the United States.

Some Syrian sides said that the information included in this secret publication is incorrect. However, the Syrian president's call strongly confirms this information. We believe that this calls's objective is to give a new push to the aforementioned negotations in order to settle the differences regarding the issue of the security arrangements. This call clearly indicates that Syria does not seek a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis.

As is known, the comprehensive solution is rejected by Israel and the United States. In fact, a settlement of the region's situation in accordance with the step by step method is basically a U.S. policy that Kissinger started — a policy that resulted in the Camp David Accords. This policy is still strategically adopted by the U.S. White House. It is a U.S. method that represents the policy of a unilateral solution that aims at depriving the Arab stand of its strength through dragging Arab sides, separately, to the negotiating table in order to settle the border problems of these Arab sides and their own security issues without discussing the basic problem. This method is also meant to deprive the Palestine question of the elements required for its strong continuation as a basic issue in the Middle East.

If the Syrian regime or the Syrian president have any other interpretation of Al-Asad's call for separating the Lebanese issue from the Middle East problem, then he or they should announce it publicly. However, we hope this announcement will not take place through grand pan-Arab slogans and words that do not have specific political essence.

Although we believe that waiting will be in vain, we will wait until this interpretation takes place. However, we believe that the real meaning of Al-Asad's call is represented by the Syrian regime's readiness to settle the Lebanese issue with the Zionist enemy after it has dropped from its calculations the Palestine question. In fact, a unilateral settlement of the Lebanese issue will only take place at the expense of the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue.

Al-Asad Personally 'Escalating Differences'

JN051955 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1642 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After hearing the Syrian president's recent statements to the French newspaper *LE MONDE*, one might wonder why the Syrian president is personally and directly escalating differences with the PLO this time. Since the differences began, the onslaught against the PLO has been led in particular by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian propaganda, and their tools. It is clear that the Syrian president has decided to use his personal weight in this onslaught against the PLO. In doing this, the Syrian president believes that this might give credibility to his regime's claims about differences with the PLO. At any rate, the Syrian president's stand proves the Syrian regime's insistence on maintaining differences with the PLO.

Why this insistence? In whose interest is this insistence and what are its objectives? We are sure that these questions have clear answers. However, we do not like to go into the details, because we do not want to respond to the Syrian president's desire to escalate differences. Moreover, we do not want to search for the Syrian president's objectives. However, this does not prevent us from clarifying some points in this regard.

The Syrian president's insistence on maintaining differences with the PLO aims at two matters: the first is preventing any progress in the Palestinian arena on the level of uniting its factions and of arranging its situation. This means continuing to place obstacles in the Palestinian march to arrange the Palestinian house. This also means that the Syrian regime will continue to hamper the role and action of the legitimate Palestinian institutions and continue to prevent their convocation. Of course, the most important legitimate Palestinian institution is the PNC. The Palestinian march witnessed progress on this level, particularly in light of the Aden agreement and in light of what we can call the awakening of some Palestinian officials in Damascus. These officials became aware that following Syrian delusions is useless, and that following these delusions will only mean losing national heritage. In light of this, these Palestinian officials have managed to restore their activities within the legitimate Palestinian framework.

The second is reactivating attempts to split the PLO in order to entrench this split, weaken the PLO, and liquidate its struggler revolutionary legitimacy. It is clear that the Syrian regime is playing its last card in this regard by using the Syrian president's personal weight in this attempt against the PLO. However, what does this new Syrian onslaught seek to achieve? In whose interests are the attempts to weaken and liquidate the PLO?

We all know that liquidating the PLO as a basic force in the equation of conflict is a U.S. condition for settling the Lebanese issue in accordnace with Syria's strategic ambitions in Lebanon. Does this new attack on the PLO mean the continuation of the Syrian response to the U.S. condition? This is the question. Until this question is clearly and firmly answered, we will continue our efforts and will confront any attempt that seeks to escalate the Syrian-Palestinian differences. This is because we still believe that these differences do not serve the issue confronting the enemy. Moreover, he who seeks to escalate these differences does not want to cofnront the enemy. We want to confront the enemy and we are working to escalate this confrontation. We also fight in order to escalate confrontation at all fronts.

We still have to ask the last question: Why does the Syrian regime renew its attack on the PLO in order to weaken it, especially when the friendly USSR has a presented a new initiative to the Palestinian people, the PLO, and Syria that is basically based on the need for the PLO to participate as the basic force in the conflict equation? This requires more support for the PLO on all levels in order to strengthen it and make it capable of entrenching the difficult Palestinian factor. The USSR initiative's emphasis on the need for the PLO to participate in the proposed international conference represents clear and strong political support for the PLO in this regard.

So why the new Syrian attempt and why this attack on the PLO? Does this attack mean an objection to the details of the Soviet initiative by casting doubts on the most important elements on which it is based? Does this have any relation to the U.S.-Israeli rejection of the Soviet initiative because it clearly announces the need for the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, to participate? These are merely questions. It will not do us any harm to wait for a certain answer to these questions from the Syrian president. Will he do it?

OPEC Delegation To Discuss Production, Pricing

JN051753 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] An official statement has announced that a delegation comprised of three OPEC energy ministers has expanded the scope of its tour of Middle East oil producing countries which is expected to begin next week. The statement added that Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, will leave for At-Ta'if tomorrow to join his colleagues from Algeria and the UAE on a tour of six oil producing countries, in order to stress the need to set a maximum production ceiling and to discuss joint action to protect prices. The three ministers will visit several Arab OPEC member countries and other countries for talks with the countries' officials.

The ministers' mission takes place in the wake of last month's OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna which decided to send a ranking delegation to all major oil producers throughout the world, including non-OPEC member countries, in order to secure the necessary pressure for taking measures that would bolster prices. Several other OPEC ministers have also been entrusted with holding similar contacts with other oil producing countries.

Indonesian Minister Cited on Task

GF051001 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0640 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Dubayy, 5 Aug (WAKH) — Indonesian Mining and Industry Minister Dr Subroto has said that the task of the OPEC ministerial delegations is not to call for an OPEC summit conference but to inform the leaders of OPEC member countries of OPEC's plans and to win the leaders' support for OPEC's unity and solidarity, and for the defense of oil prices and achieving stability for the oil market.

In an interview with the Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* published today Subroto said that he does not believe that it is necessary to convene an emergency OPEC conference at this stage. He stressed OPEC's ability to defend oil prices.

The Indonesian minister held non-OPEC oil-producing countries responsible for the present glut in the oil market. He declared:

The task of OPEC ministerial committees and the major oil-producing countries is to achieve stability in the oil market.

Subroto expressed the hope that there will be a noticeable improvement in the oil market in the next few weeks. He said that all what needs to be done is that OPEC members abide by the production quotas that have been approved by OPEC and not to exceed these quotas which total 17.5 million barrels a day. Subroto said that some OPEC member countries exceeded their quotas and the ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day was exceeded during the month of July. He accused non-OPEC countries of being responsible for the problem of the increase in production. He noted that the increase in production that occurred in July is a temporary excess and can be balanced by a reduction in prodduction in the previous or following months.

The Indonesian minister lauded reports that some OPEC member countries are reducing their production by an average of 1 million barrels a day in the month of August and said that this will contribute toward achieving stability in the oil market. However, Subroto said, Indonesia — whose population exceeds 160 million people — cannot afford to take such a step.

Subroto said that the present oil market situation is not bad enough to warrant a reduction in oil prices and OPEC is still able to defend the present oil prices.

OAPEC Postpones Verdict on Syria-Iraq Dispute

LD041524 Kuwait KUNA in English 1039 GMT 4 Aug 84

[By Shamil Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 4 (KUNA) — The judicial panel of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting countries (OAPEC) has again postponed prounouncing a verdict on Iraq's complaint against Syria for the 1982 closure of an Iraqi oil pipeline passing through its territory to the mediterranean. The panel's recorder Riyadh Dawudi told KUNA that both countries would be informed in due course of the new date for the verdict, but gave no reason for the postponement, the second so far this year. The panel was scheduled to rule on the case in early May, but after five sessions spent hearing the arguments, postponed passing judgement on the legally intricate and politically sensitive problem till August 5.

OAPEC rules make the panel's verdicts final and binding, and give it executive powers to implement whatever decisions it passes although this is the first case brought before the panel since its establishment in 1980.

The Syrian closure has prompted a series of accusations and counter-accusations from the two politically-opposed sides, with Iraq saying the move violated earlier agreements and harmed the country's oil-export potential, and Syria arguing that the issue is one of sovereignty.

With its Gulf outlets almost at a standstill because of the Iraq-Iran war, Baghdad has demanded the reopening of the pipeline, governed by a 1981 bilateral agreement, and compensation for revenue lost during the two year closure.

Syria, for its part, argues that the entire issue is outside the penal's jurisdiction, as the closure was a political and security move. It has called for the whole issue to be dropped, and costs and compensation to be paid for by Iraq, while raising a host of procedural and technical objections to the handling of the case. These have added further difficulties to the penal's already complex task of judging on the two countries' different interpretations of the panel's brief.

The body is empowered to deliver verdicts on disputes between member states on oil-related matters, as long as this does not interfere with the sovereignty of any country involved.

BAHRAIN

Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman, Delegation Arrive

GF051012 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir, received at Al-Qudaybiyah at 1130 today 'Izzat Ibrahim ad-Duri, Iraqi RCC vice chairman, and the delegation accompanying him. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior; Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, minister of transportation and communication; and Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, minister of finance and national economy, attended the meeting.

During the meeting friendly remarks were exchanged on the close fraternal relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Gulf in particular and in the Arab world in general were reviewed. Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, led those who received 'Izzat Ibrahim ad-Duri, Iraqi RCC vice chairman, on his arrival in Bahrain at 1100 today on an official 2-day visit to Bahrain. Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, was also among those who received the Iraqi RCC vice chairman.

'Izzat Ibrahim ad-Duri is accompanied by a delegation that comprises the following: Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim al-Asadi, minister of transport and communications; 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan as-Samarra'i, under secretary at the ministry of oil; Dr Harith Jamil Mahdi, director general of the office of the RCC vice chairman; 'Abdallah Khalil Rashid ad-Duri, aide de camp to the RCC vice chairman; Anwar Sabri 'Abd ar-Razzaq, chief of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry; and Dawud 'Ali I'jam, chief of protocol.

Talks Begin in Manama

GF051615 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] A session of formal talks between the Bahraini side, headed by Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Iraqi side, headed by Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim ad-Duri, was held at Al-Qudaybiyah Palace at 1730 today. The session was attended on the Bahraini side by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Transport Minister Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, Director of the Prime Minister's Office Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawa', and Ambassador Salman as-Sabbaq. The Iraqi side included Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim al-Asadi, minister of transport and communications; 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan as-Samarra'i, under secretary at the Oil Ministry; Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani, Iraqi ambassador to the State; and a number of the members of the official delegation accompanying the RCC vice president.

Further on Talks

GF051800 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1733 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Manama, 5 Aug (WAKH) — Official talks began in Manama this evening between the Bahraini side, led by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Iraqi side, led by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. After the talks, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah made a statement saying the evening session completed the morning session of talks on bilateral relations and that the two sides reviewed the Arab and international situation and the latest developments in the war between Iraq and Iran. He added that the Bahraini prime minister expressed satisfaction over the visit of the Iraqi RCC vice chairman to Bahrain because it will strengthen and expand bilateral relations.

Later a closed session was held between Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

Iraqi Delegation Departs Manama

GF060900 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Aug (WAKH) — Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the accompanying delegation today left Manama after concluding a 2-day official visit to Bahrain.

AL-ADWA' Views Red Sea Explosions

GF040920 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Manama, 4 Aug (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AL-ADWA'* says today in its editorial: The ship explosions in the Red Sea places before us the baffling fact that terrorism has started to escalate and expand to new areas to undermine the current stability in the waters of this region and consequently to expand the areas threatened outside the Gulf war zone to also undermine security and spread disturbances and confusion even more.

In conclusion, *AL-ADWA'* affirms that the objective behind the mining of waterways in countries not in a state of war and by parties against whom these countries are not directing weapons is a despicable and serious act of aggression which the whole world should condemn and stop before it spreads to other regions. Silence encourages such barbaric acts.

KUWAIT

'Soviet Source' on Ustinov Visit

JN041148 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3-9 Aug p 11

[From the "Mashriq Maghrib" column]

[Text] A Soviet source has ruled out the possibility of a visit by USSR Minister of Defense Ustinov to Kuwait in the near future. The source told *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* that it is unlikely two important officials like Foreign Affairs Minister Gromyko and Defense Minister Ustinvo would visit Kuwait in the same year. The source described press reports on this subject as somewhat exaggerated. He added that Gromyko received an invitation to visit Kuwait long ago but that a date has not been set yet. The source added that the agreement on selling Soviet weapons to Kuwait does not necessarily mean that Ustinov will visit Kuwait.

Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim, Delegation Arrives

JN040838 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Aug (INA) — Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim arrived in Kuwait this morning at the head of an official delegation. 'Izzat Ibrahim will hold talks with Kuwaiti officials on ways to promote bilateral relations in the interest of the two countries and the Arab nation. The delegation accompanying 'Izzat Ibrahim comprises Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim, minister of transport and communications; and other officials.

Meet With Prime Minister

LD040946 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0927 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Aug (KUNA) — The deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC, 'Izzat Ibrahim, arrived here today and immediately met the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. After this Mr Ibrahim held a round of official talks with heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah as-Sabah. It was said that the talks dealt with development of the Iraq-Iran war and bilateral cooperation. The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by Defense Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, Minister of Health and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Awadi, and on the Iraqi side by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan and Minister of Transport and Telecommunications 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim.

Delegation Ends Visit

LD051045 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0837 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Aug (KUNA) — Deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC, 'Izzat Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait today at the end of visit that lasted 1 day. During the visit, Ibrahim held talks with the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah which focused on bilateral relations between the two countries, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and other issues of mutual concern. The Iraqi official met with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Ibrahim arrived in Kuwait yesterday on short visit leading an official delegation which included a number of ministers and senior Iraqi officials, who also held talks with their Kuwaiti counterparts.

Communique Issued

LD051941 Kuwait KUNA in English 1645 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 5 (KUNA) — Iraq Sunday highly appreciated Kuwait's consistent stand of support to Baghdad in various fields and reiterated continued preparedness to defend its security, sovreignty and territorial integrity against any possible aggression. A joint communique issued today at the end of a two-day visit paid to Kuwait by Iraqi deputy president of the Revolution Command Council, 'Izzat Ibrahim included Kuwait's praise of the Iraqi people and Armed Forces' steadfastness and stance in defence of the Arab land and right as well as Baghdad's positive response to all mediation efforts to end the war and bloodshed between the two Moslem neighbours.

During his official visit at then invitation of H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abadallah, the Iraqi official held talks with the Kuwaiti side on the developing fraternal relations between Kuwait and Iraq and means to strengthen them in the interest of both coutnries and the Arab nations as well. The Iraqi side also explained at length developments of the Iraq-Iran war and Baghdad's permanent readiness to defend its security, land and territory against any possible attack.

The communique said that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides also reviewed the present Arab situation and the serious dimensions of the Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation and underlined the necessity for unilateral and multilateral Arab cooperation and cohesion to prevent foreign interference in the Arab area and the Gulf region in particular.

The distinguished Iraqi guest was received in audience yesterday by H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad who welcomed him and the accompanying delegation and remarked that the visit comes at a time when the Arab nation is facing crucial circumstances. On his part, the deputy president of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council explained to His Highness Iraq's views regarding Gulf and Arab relations.

Following that, a closed meeting was held including H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, Iraqi deputy president of the Revolution Command Council and H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah.

A round of official talks was then held between the two sides, led on the Iraqi part by 'Izzat Ibrahim and on the Kuwaiti side by H.H. the crown prince and premier. Talks dealt the developing fraternal relations between Kuwait and Iraq and means of promoting them in the interest of both countries and the Arab nation. Separate meetings were also held between members of the Iraqi delegation and the Kuwaiti side which centered on aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two states.

Last night, H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah gave a dinner in honour of the Iraqi distinguished guest and members of his accompanying delegation, including Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan, Minister of Communications and Transport 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Oil and Minerals 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan as well as other senior Iraqi officials.

The Kuwaiti side at the talks included Minister of Defense and Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah as-Salim, Minister of Public Health and Planning Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi and high officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Oil. The Iraqi deputy president of the Command Council extended an official invitation to H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to visit Iraq which H.H. has accepted and a date for it will be fixed later, the communique said.

Press Statement on Visit

JN052023 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 84

["Text" of Iraqi-Kuwaiti press statement issued August on RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim's visit to Kuwait]

[Text] At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim paid a 2-day official visit to Kuwait 4-5 August. The RCC vice chairman was accompanied by a delegation comprised of Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Abd ar-Rahim, minister of transportation and communications; 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan, under secretary of the Ministry of Oil; and other state officials.

The RCC vice chairman was accorded an official welcome upon arrival at Kuwait Airport . His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, minister of defense and acting foreign minister; Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of health and planning; Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Umar Ghani; and other Kuwaiti officials were at the airport to welcome the RCC vice chairman. His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and his accompanying delegation in his office at As-Sayf Palace that same morning.

His Highness the amir of Kuwait welcomed the RCC vice chairman and the delegation accompanying him, and expressed his happiness at this fraternal visit in these decisive cicumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. The Iraqi RCC vice chairman explained Iraq's viewpoint on Gulf and Arab relations to His Highness the amir. His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah; Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, held a closed meeting. Afterward, the two fraternal sides held an official session of talks. The Iraqi side was headed by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, while the Kuwaiti side was headed by His Highness Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. The discussions dealt with the advanced fraternal relations which exist between the two fraternal countries, and with ways of promoting them to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

The head of the Iraqi delegation submitted a detailed explanation of developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and of Iraq's readiness to defend its security, sovereignty, and territory against any aggression of which it may be the target. The head of the Iraqi delegation also highly praised Kuwait's unswerving stand in supporting Iraq in all spheres. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah praised the Iraqi people's stand and steadfastness, and Iraq's stand in accepting all initiatives seeking to end the war and stop the bloodshed between the Muslim neighbors.

The two sides also reviewed the current situation in the Arab region, and the serious dimensions of the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. The two sides reiterated the need for bilateral and collective Arab solidarity and cooperation to prevent any foreign interference in the Arab Gulf region in particular, and in the Arab region in general. The two sides also held a series of meetings which focused on the aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

In the evening of the same day , His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah hosted a dinner at As-Salam Palace in honor of RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the delegation accompanying him. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim extended an official invitation to His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah to visit Iraq. His Higness accepted the invitation with thanks, and its date will be set later.

Deputy Premier Interviewed on Arms Purchases

LD040857 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0713 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and information, has affirmed that since its independence, Kuwait has pursued an even-handed policy toward the USSR and the Western countries. There is nothing, he said, to prevent Kuwait from buying arms from Eastern or Western sources, or from any other source for that matter. He made this remark during an interview with Tripoli radio last night while attending the seventh session of the Arab-African Cooperation Conference now meeting in Libya. He said that Kuwait "rejects" what the Western countries have been saying about the recent visit to the USSR by Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah. He said that Kuwait's relations with Moscow are good and will remain so.

With regard to Arab issues, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said his country welcomes the convocation of an Arab summit conference to resolve inter-Arab differences as a prelude to the Arab nation's march toward unity and the solving of the Palestinian question. Concerning Arab-African cooperatiton, he affirmed the importance of this cooperation and the need to base it on a solid foundation and the need also to lay down the basis for Arab investment in Africa so that it does not clash with Western investments there. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described Kuwaiti-Libyan relations as exceptional.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Syria

LD052136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1904 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 5 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir arrived here late Sunday concluding visits to Libya and Syria. On his visit to Tripoli, where he attended the seventh session of the permanent Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee, Shaykh Sabah stated that he has delivered to Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a reply message from H.H. the amir and added that the message was part of the process of exchange and consultation among Arab leaders and heads of state aimed at creating the suitable atmosphere for the success of the next Arab summit.

The official said that the session has also represented a good opportunity for an exchange with African ministers on means to promote political cooperation and to strengthen Afro-Arab solidarity in various domains. "I can safely say," Shaykh Sabah stated, "the session was satisfactory and successful since the committee deplored, in its political statement, continuation of the destructive Iraq-Iran war and appealed to the world community for increased efforts to bring about an early end to this conflict," he added.

The official also underlined the committee's support of the steadfast Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, and denunciation of repressive acts by the racist regimes in each of occupied Palestine and South Africa. Praising Libyan efforts to make the meetings a success, Shaykh Sabah said that Tripoli has offered to host the second Afro-Arab ministerial conference which will meet during April next year.

On his 24-hour visit to Damascus, during which he handed the Syrian president a message from H.H. the amir on the current Arab situation, the official indicated that President Hafiz al-Asad showed full understanding and keenness on supporting all that may contribute to and cement Arab solidarity. He stated that he conferred with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq Shar' on several Arab issues. Shaykh Sabah was received on arrival by the acting under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Information as well as senior officials of the two ministries.

AFP: AL-ANBA' Owner Attacked in Spain

NC060837 Paris AFP in English 0826 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Malaga, Spain, Aug 6 (AFP) — An attacker last night fired several bursts from an automatic weapon at a car carrying Kuwaiti newspaper owner Khalid al-Marzuk, killing the driver and wounding a passenger, the agency EUROPA PRESS said today. There was no immediate official confirmation of the report. Mr al-Marzuk, who is holidaying nearby at Marbella, where the attack took place, was unhurt, the agency said. The attacker was "of Arab appearance," and the car was registered in Kuwait, the agency said, quoting informed sources. Mr al-Marzuk is the owner of the pro-Iraqi newspaper *AL-ANBA'*.

OMAN

Sudan's Shammu, 'Uthman Arrive for 5-Day Visit

GF041628 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu arrived in the country this evening leading a delegation on a 5-day visit to the sultanate. The delegation consists of Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman and a number of senior Sudanese officials. The Sudanese information and culture minister was received at the airport by Faysal ibn 'Ali ibn Faysal, minister of national heritage and culture; Mannallah ibn 'Ali ibn Habib, under secretary of the ministry; Ambassador Nasir ibn Sayf Al Bu 'Ali, chairman of the Asian and Australian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry; the Sudanese ambassador to the sultanate; and a number of protocol officials of the sultanate.

Qabus Receives Numayri Message

GF051545 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Muscat, 5 Aug [WAKH] — Sultan of Oman Qabus ibn Sa'id received a message today from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri dealing with the recent political, constitutional, and legislative developments in Sudan and the current developments in the Arab arena. The message was conveyed by Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu during a meeting with Fahar ibn Taymur Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs here today. Bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were reviewed during the meeting.

Saudi Fighter Squadron Arrives for Joint Excercise

GF041646 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] A fighter squadron of the Saudi Royal Air Force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Staff Pilot 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sidayri and Lieutenant Colonel Pilot Mani' al-Ghamdi arrived at Thamarit Air Base at noon today to conduct a joint excercise with the Air Force of the Sultanate of Oman. This exercise comes within the framework of mutual cooperation among the GCC countries. It is to be recalled that this is the third excercise in which the Air Force of the Sultanate of Oman will have participated with the fraternal arm forces of the GCC. The excercise will last for 2 days. The squadron was received at Thamarit Air Base by Colonel Staff Pilot Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-'Amri, deputy commander of operations in the Air Force of the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of officers of Thamarit Air Base.

QATAR

Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman Arrives From Bahrain

GF061056 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 6 Aug (QNA) — 'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi RCC vice chairman, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Doha today on a short visit to Qatar in another leg of his tour of area countries. Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense, led those Qatari officials who received 'Izzat Ibrahim on his arrival at Doha International Airport.

AR-RAYAH Comments on Red Sea Explosions

GF040822 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Doha, 4 Aug (QNA) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AR-RAYAH* links the maritime explosions under ships in the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea, and Bab el-Mandeb with attempts to undermine Arab security and block Arab oil supplies to Europe through the Red Sea. *AR-RAYAH* says that what happened in the Gulf of Suez and Bab el-Mandeb is no more than a pretext to expose the weakness of the Arab countries in protecting the international passages which they directly or indirectly control.

AR-RAYAH concludes by asserting that the security of the Gulf of Suez and Bab el-Mandeb and the entire Red Sea is an Arab responsibility. It calls for the holding of an extraordinary conference by the countries overlooking this sea to adopt the necessary measures to protect its security.

UAE

Indonesian, Libyan Oil Officials Arrive

GF040800 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 4 Aug (WAM) — Dr Subroto, Indonesian minister of mining and energy, arrived early today on a 2-day visit to the UAE. He will deliver a message to His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Indonesian President Suharto on coordinating stands on the world oil market. The Indonesian minister also will hold talks with officials on the latest oil market developments.

Kamal Hasan al-Maqhur, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Petroleum and OPEC's current chairman, also arrived today on a short visit to the UAE. He made a statement saying he will hold talks with Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, in the framework of the decision by the OPEC Ministerial Council to exchange views on the oil market situation.

President Receives Oil Ministers

GF041006 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] His Highness the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received at his guest house this morning Kamal Hasan al-Maqhur, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Petroleum and OPEC's current chairman, and Dr Subroto, Indonesian minister of mining and energy, who arrived in the UAE earlier today. The audience was attended by Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources. Kamal al-Maqhur stated that during the meeting he briefed His Highness Shaykh Zayid on the resolutions of the recent OPEC Ministerial Council meeting held in Vienna. He said His Highness affirmed the UAE's concern for the OPEC role in the world economy and the need to adhere to its decisions regarding production quotas and defense of current oil prices.

Libyan, Indonesian Officials Depart

GF051100 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The OPEC delegation which is led by Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Petroleum, left the country for Lagos this morning following a 2-day visit to the country within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states. The delegation which also includes Dr Subroto, Indonesian minister of mining and energy, was seen off by Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; and a number of senior officials. The secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Petroleum who is also the current chairman of OPEC, said that the results of the delegation's visit to the UAE was excellent and that the UAE's stand regarding its support of and adherence to the OPEC resolutions, and its call upon other countries to adhere to those resolutions, was clear. He said that following his talks in Abu Dhabi he was convinced that OPEC is adhering to and abiding by its resolutions.

AL-KHALIJ Criticizes U.S. Reaction to Mines in Red Sea

GF051002 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 5 Aug (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* criticized U.S. reaction to the news on mine explosions in the Red Sea and its readiness to move into the region under the pretext of clearing it of the mines. *AL-KHALIJ* described the U.S. announcement on its readiness to send planes and ships as evidence of this country's capability to exploit the crisis and its speedy move to develop anything new, as if it is awaiting a wedding feast to dance at even if it is not the host.

The newspaper affirmed that the Red Sea is not an ordinary waterway but it is the neck of the oil bottle and the Western world's trade with Asia and East Africa, and whoever controls it has strategic superiority over its enemy. Thus the United States does not miss a chance to firmly establish its military existence in the Red Sea, despite the protests of the countries which reject the existence of U.S. bases on their territories. *AL-KHALIJ* wondered about the sides behind those mines and their goals and said that if there is anyone who believes that such practices will hinder navigation in the Red Sea, he is wrong and if anyone believes that they will create political changes in the region, he is wrong also.

In conclusion, the newspaper affirmed that such mines would open the way for ambitious superpowers which want to consolidate their presence in the region and that in the case of the Red Sea, the United States seems to be the only power liable to come. It said that those who planted the mines are shortsighted, since they thought that political gains could be achieved following this, but if they knew that threatening the navigation lines means the summoning of the United States and Western Europe, then no doubt they are involved in a conspiratorial plan against the Arab nation.

Zayid Receives Cable From Poland's Jablonski

GF051828 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Aug (WAM) — His highness the president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received a cable from Henryk Jablonski, chairman of the Council of State in the Polish People's Republic, thanking him for the cable he sent on Polish national day.

PDRY

ATH-THAWRI Comments on Red Sea Mining

GF041456 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] *ATH-THAWRI* newspaper, the organ of the YSP Central Committee, in its issue today has asserted that the danger posed by the mine explosions in the Red Sea cannot be underestimated, especially if the area of the explosions is widened. Commenting on the two ships which hit mines in the Red Sea, the newspaper said that the U.S. aggressive circles, since the defeat of the U.S. plan in Lebanon, are keen on increasing their presence in the region by shifting their military activities to the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea, while resuming their coordination with the Zionist enemy.

ATH-THAWRI referred to imperialist efforts aimed at increasing the tension in the Arabian Sea by creating incidents of regional military confrontation between the countries of the region and by fomenting trouble whenever there is a sign of stability in the region. *ATH-THAWRI* said the recent explosions will be a pretext for further U.S.-Zionist interference, but this will only expose those parties striving to benefit from the tense situation they created. The newspaper said undermining Yemeni sovereignty is the goal of the imperialists and Zionists in creating this tense situation. The newspaper asserted that the two parts of Yemen will confront any attempts aimed at undermining sovereignty and threatening the freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

Supreme Council Delegation Arrives in Aden

GF041409 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The delegation of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Supreme Council of the northern part of the homeland led by Brother Ahmad Muhammad ash-Shijni, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and member of the Standing Committee of the northern part of the homeland, arrived in Aden today. The delegation will complete the preparations for the meeting of the second session [as heard] of the Joint Ministerial Committee which will convene in Aden. In statement to ANA, Ash-Shijni said that the Joint Ministerial Committee will discuss further the issues of the first and second sessions of the Joint Ministerial Committee and the decisions of the Joint Ministerial Committee. He explained that the committee will review new joint economic, industrial, and agricultural projects between the two parts.

ANA has learned that Brother Ash-Shijni will convey a verbal message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland.

Chairman Receives Salih Message

GF051633 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today in his office at the secretariat of the YSP Central Committee Brother Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, member of the Standing Committee, and leader of the delegation of the northern part of the homeland. During the meeting Brother Ahmad ash-Shijni conveyed a message to brother secretary general from his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, dealing with efforts exerted by the two parts to reunify the land and the people of Yemen.

During the meeting, attended by Muhmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and leader of the southern part's delegation to the secretariat of the Yemeni Council, the brother secretary general reviewed the results of the 9th session of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Council and the current preparations for the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. He expressed satisfaction over the activity of the Secretariat of the Yemeni Council. He affirmed the importance of strengthening joint action on the implementation of the decisions of the two sessions of the Yemeni Council and the results of the work of the unity committees. He said that these sessions guarantee the effectivness of the unity relations and efforts between the two parts in various aspects of political coordination, trade exchange, and the movement of citizens between the two parts. He reiterated that the leadership in the southern part of the homeland, in coordination with the leadership of the northern part of the homeland, is greatly concerned about these issues and feels that the unity agreements between the two parts will serve the vital interests of our Yemeni people.

Supreme Council Begins Session

GF041949 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The Secretariat of the Yemeni Supreme Council began its ninth session in Aden this evening under the chairmanship of Brothers Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Ahmad Muhammad ash-Shijni, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of the homeland, to complete the arrangements for the convening of the second session of the Ministerial Committee which will be held in Aden in a few days.

The secretariat discussed a number of questions on the agenda of the session, including some proposals on common economic projects for the purpose of achieving further cooperation and coordination between the two parts of Yemen. These proposals will be presented to the second session of the Ministerial Committee. This session was held in an atmosphere of fraternity and common responsibility.

YAR

Turkish Ship Reported Damaged in Red Sea Explosions

TA031615 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Excerpt] It has been announced that a Turkish dry cargo ship, *Mordul*, was slightly damaged during explosions near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait joining the Red Sea to the India Ocean yesterday. According to information received by a Turkish Radio and Television correspondent from the officials of the ship's firm, only certain electronic equipment was damaged on the 9,500-DWT ship, which was transporting a cargo of sulphur from Kuwait to Algeria. The 29 members of the crew were not injured.

Authorities Investigate Explosions in Red Sea

GF041822 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] A responsible source at the General Corporation for Ports in the YAR stated that the concerned authorities are investigating the mine explosions adjacent to three ships sailing in the international shipping lane near the Yemeni coasts. The source pointed out that the sea patrols are carrying out their role as required to maintain the progress of shipping in the Yemeni shipping lanes.

In concluding his statement, the source affirmed that the ships are traveling the international shipping lanes as normal and that the three ships which collided with mines are undergoing repairs so that they can resume their journeys.

AFP: Tanker Sinking in Red Sea After Striking Mine

NC050954 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] London, Aug 5 (AFP) — A Liberian-registered tanker, the b7,200-tonne *Oceanic Energy*, was sinking today after striking a mine last night in the south of the Red Sea, Lloyds of London Information Service said. The incident occurred between Jidda, Saudi Arabia and Hodeida, North Yemen, Lloyds said.

More on Sinking Tanker

NC051107 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Djibouti, Aug 5 (AFP) — The Liberian tanker *Oceanic Energy* was presumed to have sunk today, after hitting a mine last night in the south of the Red Sea, according to the Djibouti Central Radio Office, which monitors maritime radio calls in the area. The last message from the ship's master — "The ship is now sinking" — was timed at 0510 GMT, the office told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The message was also received by a Soviet and a Pakistani merchant ship.

The 87,200-tonne tanker is believed to have struck a mine at longitude 40.10 degrees east and latitude 18.25 degrees north — in the middle of the Red Sea, west of the Saudi coastal town of Al-Qunfidhah.

(In London, sources reported that the *Oceanic Energy* was operated by Energy Shipping LTD. of Taipei.)

Tanker Reportedly Still Afloat

NC051828 Paris AFP in English 1823 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, Aug 5 (AFP) — The Liberian tanker *Oceanic Energy*, presumed to have sunk after hitting a mine in the southern Red Sea last night, was believed still afloat today with the French merchant ship, *L'Anjou*, providing help, according to a reliable source here. The source said one of the 87,200-ton ship's main tanks exploded after the *Oceanic Energy* hit the mine. The tanker, operated by Energy Shipping LTD. of Taipei, reportedly carried a crew of 50. There was no word on their fate.

Captain of Red Sea Ship Denies Minefield Rumor

GF051826 Doha QNA in Arabic 1814 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] San'a', 5 Aug (QNA) — The commander of the Netherlands ship (*Junit Vroost*) has denied that his ship was in any danger opposite the YAR coast. In a statement today, the ship's captain, (I. Davids), said that rumors that his ship is surrounded by a minefield are untrue. He said that the ship is at present unloading its cargo at the port of Al-Hudaydah.

Premier Leaves for Joint Committee Meeting in Aden

GF061100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] San'a', 6 Aug (WAKH) — YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani left for Aden today. He heads a delegation that will take part in the meetings of the YAR-PDRY

Joint Ministerial Committee that stems from the Yemeni National Council which begin today. During its meetings the committee will discuss efforts to unify the two parts of Yemen and joint cooperation and coordination. The meetings are being held to prepare for the meetings of the Yemeni Supreme Council.

Mubarak Comments on Protecting Suez Gulf

NC060944 Cairo MENA in English 0930 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, Aug 6 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said today that Egypt has its own measures to protect Gulf of Suez waters, but cannot speak about them openly for the time being. President Mubarak was answering questions by reporters on measures taken by Egypt to protect the Gulf of Suez.

Asked whether Egypt had requested minesweeping helicopters from the United States, President Mubarak said that we are in the process of taking such a decision. Asked again whether the helicopters would arrive, President Mubarak said "why not".

Abu Ghazalah on Shipping Safety

NC061020 Cairo MENA in English 0945 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, Aug 6 (MENA) — Egyptian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said today that the Gulf of Suez is safe for international shipping. In statement to local and foreign reporters, Abu Ghazalah said that recent explosions in the area were not the type that could cause damage to ships. The Egyptian defence minister said the explosions were over and were not as serious as depicted by world media.

In reply to a query on whether the Egyptian Government had asked the United States to dispatch minesweeping helicopters, Abu Ghazalah said Egypt may ask for them just to patrol the area, because it is very easy for any ship to throw a mine in the water. Therefore Egypt is taking all the measures to be sure that no ship could do such a thing, he added. Abu Ghazalah denied that Egypt had already asked for these helicopters from the U.S. and said the decision to do so may be made after President Husni Mubarak's visit to Yugoslavia.

Asked about the explosions, he said that up till now, there are some indications that these acts could be carried out by two countries, but he added that we are not sure of that, and he declined to comment or name any country. Abu Ghazalah said Egypt had dispatched minesweepers to the Red Sea but not to North Yemen, as we are only taking all the arrangements in our area along our shores. We cannot go deep in the waters of other countries. It is not our responsibility, he added.

On what is specifically done within the Gulf of Suez and what kind of patrols there are there, he said Egypt has minesweepers and is adopting all kinds of measures to safeguard the Gulf of Suez. On whether Egypt had recovered one of these devices, he said we are sure now that there is nothing in the Gulf of Suez "up till this very moment, nothing".

Asked whether he could categorically say that these devices were not mines, Abu Ghazalah said he can say that they are not mines. They could be some kind of explosives which could be tied to a ship or thrown to be deep in the water, and when the ship passes they explode. They are not designed to destroy ships, but they could create only some confusion, he added. Abu Ghazalah asserted that there had been no explosives since the 26th of July.

Asked about the Liberian tanker, he said that was in the southern part of the Red Sea, but not in our waters.

On whether Egypt was prepared to defend freedom of navigation throughout the Red Sea, Abu Ghazalah said "Of course, for sure, not only the Gulf of Suez — all the Red Sea". He said that what had taken place was not a very serious thing as the media all over the world are trying to tell. It is not dangerous to any navigation in the Gulf of Suez.

He expressed belief that this action is designed, because the one who carried it, for sure was not trying to block the maritime routes. If it is a country, then it needs the Suez Canal and the Red Sea for the flow of materials and weaponry, he said. So it could only be a trick in retaliation for what is going on in the Gulf area, he added. He asserted that this matter will not cause a lack of confidence in the route, because it happened, and it has stopped, and we are controlling the navigation and we are taking measures against anyone who is suspected. We are trying to use our rights in order even to intercept any ship suspected of carrying any kind of explosives, he added. Abu Ghazalah said that Egypt had in fact intercepted a ship but nothing was found on board it.

Asked about the Red Sea, he said he did not believe the Red Sea itself can ever be mined, as in order to mine an area, you need a certain depth of water. You can never mine the deep water, because it could not be effective. Abu Ghazalah said that only some areas could be mined like the Gulf of Suez or the Straits of Bab al-Mandab, but not the Red Sea itself, because you can never put the mine at a depth of 200 metres — it would not be effective.

Concern Over Explosions Reported

NC052140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA) — Observers believe that the explosions which have occurred in several areas of the Red Sea — the latest of which was the incident involving the Liberian ship which was severely damaged and sank opposite the Saudi coast yesterday — are a serious threat to the safety of navigation in the Red Sea. Consequently, urgent measures are needed to safeguard navigation in the Red Sea and to stop these incidents and to ascertain their causes.

MENA has learned that the authorities concerned are following the situation with attention and concern and are in the process of adopting the necessary measures to deal with these incidents, which no longer only threaten navigation in the Red Sea, but also the security and safety of its littoral states.

'Abd al-Majid on Mubarak's Visit to SFRY

NC031222 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Yugoslavia next Monday and his meetings with the Yugoslav president and leaders have special meaning in light of the good relations between the two countries, which are acting within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement. He said that President Mubarak's talks with the Yugoslav leaders will focus on the international situation, particularly the Middle East problem and the Gulf war, in addition to discussing all that is of interest to the two countries and bilateral relations. He added that President Husni Mubarak will have a session of talks with the Yugoslav president to review Egypt's efforts to bring about an end to the Gulf war and the contribution that the nonaligned countries can make to achieve this goal.

This came in an interview Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid gave to our reporter. He talked about Egypt's stand on the Palestinian problem. He said that Egypt will not allow the Palestinian problem to be frozen and that it is acting from a clear premise; namely, that the Palestinian people should get their right to self-determination and establish their own state and independent entity. His Excellency called for continued dialogue between Egypt and the PLO to find the best means of fulfilling the Palestinian people's demands.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that, for the first time since its resumption of activities in the ICO, Egypt will take part in the meetings of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, scheduled to be held in New York on 1 October. Egypt will also take part in the meetings of the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers. He said that the conference will discuss international issues, particularly the means of ending the Iraqi-Iranian war. His Excellency added that in New York, Egypt will also propose to the African countries' foreign ministers a call to solve African disputes and to seriously prepare for the 20th African summit conference.

Mubarak Departs for Yugoslavia

NC060626 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, accompanied by his wife, left Cairo this morning for Yugoslavia on an official 4-day visit.

Al-Mahjub To Clarify Policies to U.S. Officials

NC060851 Cairo MENA in English 0835 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Washington, Aug 6 (MENA) — Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub disclosed upon his arrival in Washington today that he intends, during his 4-day talks with U.S. senior officials and congressmen and senators, to clarify Egypt's home and foreign policies, with particular emphasis on Israel's continued occupation of part of Egyptian territory, namely Tabah, as well as Egypt's request for more flexibility in the use of U.S. aid in the implementation of the country's ambitious development plan.

Shortly after his arrival in Washington early today, Dr al-Mahjub had his first meeting with the prominent Senator Charles Mathias.

In his statement to a MENA correspondent upon arrival from the State of Indiana where he was attending an international political conference, Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub said, in connection with the issue of transferring the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv, "we are fully aware that the U.S. Administration appreciates our attitude toward this issue," he added. "We are also aware that congressmen and senators appreciate the dimensions and repercussions involved."

Ghali Comments on Relations With Israel

NC051043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, emphasized that the first step in solving the Palestinian issue is to settle Arab disputes. There is no room for pondering a solution to the Palestinian issue, Ghali said, as long as there is a war in Lebanon and in the Gulf and Arab countries are in disarray. In an interview with Bahrain's *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ*, Ghali commented on Egyptian-Israeli relations, saying that their development is linked to the prospects for a fair solution [to the Palestinian issue]. If the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights, if arbitrary measures end, and the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ends, then relations will improve between Egypt and Israel.

Ghali made it clear that Egypt's rapprochement with the Arab countries will not affect Egyptian-Israeli relations, stressing that the goal of Egyptian diplomacy is to reach a permanent solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Ghali also commented on the development of Egyptian-Soviet relations and the possible repercussions on Egyptian-U.S. relations. He said that, being a founder of the Nonaligned Movement, Egypt is dedicated to a policy of nonalignment. Such a policy, Ghali said, calls for cordial relations with both the superpowers. Accordingly, Egypt and the Soviet Union have elevated their diplomatic representation to the level of ambassador, Ghali concluded.

Al-Baz Views Soviet Proposals, Relations With Israel

NC051652 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office Political Affairs, has stated that the talks which President Husni Mubarak will hold with the Yugoslav president tomorrow are important in view of the close relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia. In a statement to journalists today, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt has undertaken a peace initiative to stop the Gulf war and has held contacts with several states, especially India and Yugoslavia. This was followed by an assessment of the various reactions to the Egyptian initiative. He added that within the framework of present and future activity, contacts are underway with several states, including Yugoslavia and India, regarding the best way to act in this area in the coming period.

Responding to a question on the steps that have been taken to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt has always supported an international conference with the participation of all parties to reach a final settlement of the Palestinian problem. This is a positive idea, but what is more important is that this idea should not be a cause for a delay in the adoption of effective steps to improve the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. In other words, the coming months or years preceding the conference should not pass in a state of anticipation but in a state of activity because the situation there will worsen if Israel continues to act unilaterally.

Dr al-Baz emphasized the importance of cooperation among the various parties for reaching a comprehensive and permanent peace. He also emphasized the need for all parties to adopt a positive stand conducive to activating the proposals [not further identified] in the direction of a solution. He explained that there are no indications that this conference will be held soon. The conference will not be held for at least a year because preparations take a long time. He said that a characteristic of the recent Soviet proposals is that they spell out the procedure according to which the conference should work.

Concerning the Israeli elections, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt's stand toward the new Israeli Government will depend on the stands this government will adopt toward fundamental issues, especially the Palestinian issue. A positive Israeli stand will be measured by how close it comes to recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, as well as by Israel's nonaggression on neighboring states, and its abandonment of the policy of expansion and achievement of security through aggression.

He added that in accordance with these concepts, Israel should withdraw unconditionally from Lebanese territory, and should not impose its hegemony on Lebanon or on any part of Lebanon so that there will be mutual security between the two parties.

Dr al-Baz said that Israel's policy toward Egypt should be built on good intentions and cooperation to solve the dispute over Tabah as soon as possible. He added that leaving this question [without a solution] will create an atmosphere of tension in relations between Egypt and Israel. Israel must also understand that Egypt has a basic role in safeguarding the security of the Arab homeland, Africa, and the Red Sea. Israel must not think of undermining this Egyptian role, which is outside the framework of Egyptian-Israeli relations. He said that Israel must not think Egypt's relations with other states will be at the expense of Egypt's relations with Israel.

Al-Qadhdhafi Attempts 'Important Political Contacts'

NC040542 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] The Cairo paper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* today discloses that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has made attempts to hold important political contacts with Egyptian officials. The paper adds that a Libyan envoy visited Egypt mid-July and met with several Egyptian officials. The envoy, according to the paper, announced that Al-Qadhdhafi has decided to stop all propaganda campaigns against Egypt, and its policy and leadership.

Consultative Council Speaker Leaves for Mexico

NC031423 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim left Cairo for London this afternoon on his way to Mexico. 'Abd al-Hakim is leading an Egyptian delegation to the international conference on population which will be held in the Mexican capital from 16 to 13 August. 'Abd al-Hakim will read Egypt's paper which has been submitted to the conference. The paper includes a review of Egypt's experience with the population issue and its future policy on population problems. 'Abd al-Hakim and his accompanying delegation will also attend an international parliamentary meeting on population and development which will be held in the Mexican capital on 15 and 16 August.

Saddam Husayn Message on Nuclear Weapons

JN031330 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Tokyo, 3 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that Israel is still trying to avoid withdrawing its threat to repeat its strike against nuclear installations in Iraq and other countries.

In a message of greeting he addressed today to the world conference against atomic and hydrogen bombs currently being held in Tokyo, President Saddam Husayn said that Israel is giving itself the right to determine the quality and purpose of installations, thus divesting the IAEA of its jurisdiction at a time when Israel refuses to join the treaty banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

He added that Israel is supplying the Iranian regime with military and technical aid in order to prolong that regime's hostile war against Iraq, which has lasted almost 4 years, and to spread chaos and subversion in the region.

The president said: Iraq's belief in peace, its response to all international efforts to end bloodshed, and its high feeling of responsibility toward security and stability in the region have been confirmed to the world. He added: In the meantime, the Iranian regime's expansionist, hostile trend and its insistence on continuing war, on interfering in the neighboring states' internal affairs, and on threatening security and stability in the region have also been confirmed.

President Saddam Husayn added that Iraq, which finds itself forced to confront aggression with all the means and weapons it possesses in order to defend its security, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity, will continue to believe in international relations based on equality, mutual respect, and the principles of international law.

He stressed that Iraq will continue to deal with any serious initiative that seeks peace with a positive spirit and an open mind. Iraq, he added, will also sincerely cooperate with the international organizations and friendly states which worked and are still working to establish a just and honorable peace.

President Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of doubling international efforts to conclude international agreements by which the nuclear arms race can be curbed and by which resources can be freed for the development and prosperity of all mankind. He added: In view of the current international tension, we cannot remain silent over some racist regimes' acquisition of nuclear weapons, such as those obtained by the Pretoria and Tel Aviv regimes to be used as means of extortion for the sake of forging ahead with their racist and aggressive policies. He called on the conferees to condemn the close cooperation existing between these two racist regimes in the field of developing nuclear wepaons, a matter which threatens world peace and security.

At the end of his message, President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's support for continuing the initiative to hold such international conferences in memory of the horrendous, unprecedented tragedy in human history. He said that the destruction to which Hiroshima and Nagasaki were exposed in 1945 will continue to be a lesson for all mankind, and a reminder of the extent reached by man in developing weapons of mass destruction which threaten to annihilate mankind and all life in the world.

Iraq is participating in this conference with a delegation from the National Council for Peace and Solidarity, led by 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali. Delegations from all over the world are also participating in this conference, which is held annually at the invitation of the Japanese Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

Armed Forces Communiques Report Latest Action

No 1,546

JN031554 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1522 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA) — A military communique said here today that the Iraqi forward units pounded a number of Iranian observation posts and positions in the central sector, killing five, wounding others, and destroying two observation posts. Those manning the observation posts were either killed or wounded.

Communique No 1,546 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that another forward unit east of Basra shelled Iranian positions and concentrations with artillery scoring accurate hits and destroying a hardware stockpile.

The communique also said that the Iraqi forces destroyed an enemy excavator opposite our forces' positions in the northern sector.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,546 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their valiant operations at the front against the racist Iranian enemy forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various types of weapons, our forward units pounded a number of enemy observation posts and positions in the central sector of the front, killing five, wounding others, and destroying two observation posts. Those manning the two posts were either killed or wounded.

2. Our forward units carried out concentrated artillery attacks on enemy positions and concentrations east of Basra, scoring accurate, effective hits. One hardware stockpile was destroyed.

3. In the northern sector of the front, our forces fired at and destroyed an enemy excavator. In another area in the same sector, new groups of Iranians sought refuge with our units after escaping from the inferno of Khomeyni and the tyranny of his criminal clique. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 August 1984

No 1,547

JN041624 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Communique No 1,547 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 August 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's brave men are continuing to defend rights and principles and to confront the forces of the defeated Khomeyniite clique. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units carried out effective strikes against enemy positions and troop concentrations in the operational area east of Basra, killing four and destroying three infantry positions, one weapon emplacement, and one large hardware stockpile.

2. One of our forward units sighted several enemy troops and vehicles in the central sector of the battlefield. It fired on them, killing two and destroying two vehicles and two hardware stock piles.

3. Two were killed and one hardware stockpile was set on fire in the Maysan sector.

4. At 1200 and 2345 on 3 August 1984, the criminal Khomeyniite enemy shelled the village of Choman with heavy artillery. Twelve heavy artillery shells fell on the village, demolishing and setting fire to five houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 August 1984

No 1,548

JN051602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA) — The Iraqi Armed Forces have destroyed two infantry positions, one vehicle, one heavy caliber machine gun, and one hardware stockpiles. Communique No 1,548 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here this evening said that new groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with the Iraqi units in the central sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear. The communique also said that the Iranian regime's artillery shelled Basra Governorate at 0845 and 0900 today, damaging several civilian properties. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,548 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With an unflinching determination to confront the aggressor expansionists, our intrepid Armed Forces units continue their activities in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and for today are as follows:

1. Several enemy troops were sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our unit pounded them with all types of weapons, hitting one enemy element and destroying two infantry positions.

2. Escaping the tyranny and oppression of the Iranian rulers, new groups of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units in the central sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear lines. An enemy observation post was also destroyed in another area of the same sector.

3. Our forward units shelled enemy positions as well as troop and equipment assembly points in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring effective and strong blows with all types of weapons.

4. One vehicle, two infantry positions, one heavy caliber machine gun, and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

5. At 0845 and 0900 today, the aggressor Iranian regime shelled a civilian area in Basra Governorate with heavy artillery, damaging several civilian properties.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 August 1984

Ramadan Makes Statement; Leaves for Turkey

JN041939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Turkey this evening at the head of a delegation on an official visit.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the visit comes at the official invitation of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, aimed at promoting friendship and cooperation between the two neighborly countries.

The visit is also aimed at continuing the joint dialogue between the two sides which began during the Turkish prime minister's recent visit to Iraq.

He added that during the visit, the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee will hold meetings aimed at reaching agreements that will contribute to developing and expanding bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade fields — agreements that were discussed with the Turkish prime minister during his visit to Iraq — in addition to the future projects in the various fields that serve the joint interests of the two neighborly peoples.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed satisfaction with the good bilateral relations and their continued development. He expressed his confidence that this visit will have positive and fruitful results toward expanding and promoting bilateral cooperation, noting that both sides have a sincere desire and joint faith in this regard.

Ramadan's delegation is composed of Qasim Ahmad Taqi, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee; the Central Bank governor; the under secretaries of the Foreign and Trade Ministries; and several officials from the Iraqi ministries and establishments.

Ramadan Comments on Talks

JN051120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Ankara, 5 Aug (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman Taha Yasin Ramadan has described his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal as good, and characterized by a positive atmosphere of mutual understanding.

In a statement to INA following the second round of private talks with the Turkish prime minister, Ramadan expressed optimism that new fields of cooperation will be opened between the two countries, especially in increasing bilateral cooperation. He said the two sides formed a technical committee to draft the final agreements, which will be signed tomorrow.

Ramadan held two rounds of private talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Relations Good

JN051833 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Ankara, 5 Aug (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with the Arab ambassadors accredited to Turkey. At the meeting, Ramadan spoke about the nature of Iraqi-Turkish relations. Ramadan said: We believe in the need to establish good relations with Turkey, in spite of the war with Iran. We also believe in the need to establish good relations with Iran. Ramadan stressed that all Arab countries are interested in promoting cooperation with Turkey, and that this must take place within the framework of joint coordination.

Taha Yasin Ramadan described his talks with Turkish officials as successful, as they dealt with all topics in a detailed manner. He added that installing a new oil pipeline to carry Iraqi oil through Turkey is the basis of the talks, that an agreement has been reached on the framework of the project, and that the agreement on this project will be signed so that technical work may begin in the next 2 weeks.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the new pipeline will have a capacity of 500,000-600,000 barrels per day, and that he hopes it will be completed in 1 and 1/2 years. He added that there are also studies about installing a pipeline to supply Turkey with natural gas, and that Iraq is currently studying this project and evaluating its economic feasibility. He said that the Iraqi and Turkish sides are exerting joint efforts to expand and promote trade relations.

On the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq welcomes any peace initiative, whether it comes from Turkey or from any other side.

At the end of the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stessed that Iraqi-Turkish relations are good and proceed in accordance with a joint understanding of all topics, and that there are no differences on the need to promote cooperation between the two countries.

Reportage on Ramadan's Visit to Turkey

For Ankara and INA reportage on the visit to Turkey of Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, including his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, see the Turkey section of the 6 August Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*and subsequent issues.

Ramadan: Iran War Plot by Enemies of Iraq

JN041719 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Popular Army commander, has emphasized that the hostile war imposed on our struggling country is a plot being implemented by all the enemies who want to harm great Iraq.

Addressing a group of Popular Army fighters in the Al-Qadisiyah district, who later left a training camp for the front lines to fight the forces of evil and darkness, the Popular Army commander said that the war imposed on Iraq appears to be a war of borders, whereas the Tehran rulers are only obedient tools implementing a major plot against Iraq, its revolution, and accomplishments. He added that the proud Iraqis have realized this filthy plot and are vying to sacrifice in the defense of their revolution, land, and principles, for which they have sacrificed for almost 4 years.

Syrian Air Force Men Said Executed in Coup Try

JN051330 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] London, 5 Aug (INA) — The *AD-DUSTUR* magazine to be issued here Monday says that the Syrian authorities have executed nine senior Syrian Air Force officers in the Al-Qutayfah military prison. They were accused of taking part in a coup attempt to overthrow Hafiz al-Asad's regime in order to prevent his brother Rif'at from returning to Syria. The magazine said that the families of the nine officers were told that they were killed during special military exercises.

More executions of other Syrian Air Force members are expected. Moreover, it is believed that the Syrian authorities will expel Air Force Commander Subhi Haddad from Syria because of his close association with the nine officers.

Choice of Peres To Form Israeli Government Noted

JN051530 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Occupied Paelstine — Hayim Herzog, the head of the Zionist entity, announced this afternoon that he decided to ask Shim'on Peres, leader of the Zionist Labor Party, to form the new Zionist government. The Zionist Labor Party obtained 44 seats in the recent Zionist Knesset elections.

After the decision entrusting him with forming the new government, Peres said that he hopes to form a coalition government as soon as possible.

Two Eritrean Leaders Arrive in Baghdad 5 Aug

JN061049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA) — 'Abd al-Qadir Gilan, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Committee, and Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Central Council, arrived here last night as part of a tour of some Arab countries.

In a statement to INA, Gilan said the visit aims at briefing the Iraqi officials on the unitary agreement recently reached among the Eritrean revolution factions.

He praised Iraq's heroic steadfastness in defending the Arab homeland's eastern flank and repulsing the spiteful Iranian regime's aggression.

Briefs

Outgoing YAR Ambassador — Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf received this morning YAR Ambassador Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Fasil at the end of his tour of duty in Iraq. They discussed fraternal bilateral relations. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 5 Aug 84 JN]

INA-XINHUA Cooperation — Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim this morning received Mu Guangren, deputy editor in chief of XINHUA. They discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of information and means of reinforcing and promoting their relations, particularly in cooperation between INA and XINHUA. Mu Guangren had earlier held talks with the INA director on strengthening the two agencies' cooperation. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 5 Aug 84 JN]

Military Delegation To Visit Moscow 5 Aug

LD051237 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] London, Aug 5 (KUNA) — A Jordanian military delegation leaving Amman to Moscow Sunday will purchase sophisticated Soviet arms to bolster the military capability of the Jordanian Armed Forces, sources here said.

The sources told KUNA that the arms deal will include advanced missiles, jetfighters, tanks, torpedo boats and mine sweepers.

It elaborated by saying the Jordanians will buy hail storm launchers which can release 1,500 bombs a minute coverage a five to 10 square kilometer area.

The arms deal which was agreed upon in earlier closed door meetings also includes advanced radars similar to U.S. AWACS, airborne early warning and control systems, the sources said.

The high ranking delegation is headed by the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Zayd ibn Shakir.

British press reports have lately mentioned that Jordan was compelled to buy Soviet arms since its efforts to purchase U.S. arms went in vain because of Zionist pressure on the Reagan administration and Congress.

Earlier reports have indicated that a rift between Amman and Washington had occurred on establishing rapid deployment forces which would be sent to the Gulf region in case of any expansion of the Iraq-Iran war.

British sources said that Jordan is still willing to buy Western weapons, but does not want to beg for mercy from the U.S. Administration.

Army Chief Departs

JN051254 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 aug 84

[Text] Amman — Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, left Amman for the Soviet Union today leading a military delegation on an official visit of several days, during which he will visit a number of military centers. The visit comes in response to an invitation from Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov, chief of the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff and first deputy minister of defense.

He was seen off by Chief of Staff, Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, his assistants, and a number of high ranking officers.

Explosion Reported Near U.S. Warehouse

NC041058 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Amman, Aug 4 (AFP) — A bomb went off under a lorry near a storehouse belonging to the U.S. Embassy here yesterday, the embassy said today.

Two Jordanians, who were going past in a car at the time, were slightly injured in the blast, which blew a hole in the road a metre (three feet) across. Otherwise the only damage was to the lorry.

An embassy official said the device had been planted under a wheel of the embassy-owned lorry, which was parked behind the depot.

The Jordanian authorities had not made any official statement on the blast by the end of the morning.

It was the third blast against U.S. interests in Amman in just over a year. On May 9 last year there were two explosions at the American Midle East educational and trading services and the American Life Insurance company, neither causing much damage.

On March 24 this year a bomb went off in the car park at the Intercontinental Hotel here, which is opposite the U.S. Embassy.

Amman Reportage

JN041223 Amman Doemstic Service in Arabic
1205 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

At 0830 on Friday, 3 August 1984, a minor explosion took place under an old truck which had been abandoned near the Eighth Circle in Amman on a back street adjacent to the wall of the square where the U.S. Embassy keeps its old office furniture. The explosion, estimated to have a force of 1 kg of TNT, damaged only the back wheel of the truck. No other damage or casualties were sustained in the incident.

The competent organs have started their investigation of the incident.

AR-RA'Y Warns of U.S. Role in Red Sea

JN050905 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 5 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Red Sea Mines, Are They the U.S. Trojan Horse?" *AR-RA'Y* says: One of the complications that arose from the laying of mines in the Red Sea is the increasing U.S. presence there in the form of so-called U.S. experts. Undoubtedly, removing these mines from the Red Sea is absolutely essential in order to safeguard shipping there. However, it is not essential that U.S. experts do this job. This is an Arab responsibility. If there is a need for more advanced international expertise in this field, it is available and can be requested from countries, such as Greece and Sweden, that do not have any covetous ambitions in the region.

Needless to say, the clearing of the Suez Canal following the 1956 aggression was carried out by an international team. Egypt at that time did not permit any individual country to carry out the task single-handed. Reports now say that it was an Egyptian request that brought the U.S. experts to the area. These experts have established a base in the Red Sea in order to remove the mines. Thus, many expect fraternal Egypt to be aware of all the dangers that exist whatever their form or declared objective of any U.S. presence. They also expect Egypt to adopt a more balanced policy by inviting an international team to remove the mines if foreign expertise in this field is necessary.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The Red Sea mines must not be turned into a U.S. Trojan horse that could open the region to an undesired U.S. presence, particularly since removing these mines does not require a miracle and since such a task is not one which only the Americans are capable of executing.

Israel's Peres Asked To Form New Government

JN051423 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tel Aviv — Israeli President Hayim Herzog today officially asked Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres to form a new government to replace the government of Yitzhaq Shamir. The Israeli president said in a news conference that following the negotiations he held with all the parliamentary blocs, he feels that there is a general agreement that the Israeli economic situation has reached a very serious stage, and that most of these blocs support a government under Shim'on Peres in order to remedy this situation. Herzog urged Peres to form this government quickly.

Shim'on Peres announced that he has accepted this task and has asked the parliamentary blocs to help him form the government. He said that the future government has to deal with several issues, such as the economic issues and returning the Israeli forces from Lebanon. Peres said he hopes to form a government that will include both the Likud and the Alignment. The Alignment, headed by Shim'on Peres, won 44 seats in the 23 July general elections, 3 more seats than the Likud Party won.

According to Israeli law, Shim'on Peres has to form the new government within 3 weeks. If he fails to do so, he will be given another 3 weeks. If he fails again, the Israeli president will ask Likud Party Leader Yitzhaq Shamir to form the government, because his party won second place in the general elections.

Al-Jumayyil, Junblatt Discuss Security Plan

NC041911 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received Walid Junblatt, public works and tourism minister, at the presidential summer residence in Bikfayya this afternoon. Junblatt was accompanied by former Minister Marwan Hamadah.

During the meeting, Minister Junblatt briefed President al-Jumayyil on his visit to Damascus and on the talks he had with Syrian officials. The discussions dealt with the security plan and the ongoing efforts to implement it. The Cabinet will study this subject during its extraordinary meeting on Monday.

Gromyko, Karami Exchange Anniversary Cables

NC031230 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Lebanon and the Soviet Union, which falls on 4 August, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko addressed to his Lebanese colleague Rashid Karami the following cable:

Please accept congratulations on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Lebanon. These relations, which are based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs, have assumed during these years the characteristics of traditional friendship in confirmation of the Soviet Union's firm stance of supporting Lebanon's stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity.

We express our confidence that Soviet-Lebanese relations will develop in the interest of the two countries' peoples and for the sake of a firm peace in the Middle East. We wish the friendly Lebanese people peace and success in liberating Lebanese territory.

Prime Minister Karami addressed to his colleague Gromyko the following message:

I am pleased to take this opportunity on the 40th anniversary of the exchange of diplomatic relations between our countries to express to you our happiness over the constant growth of the relations of friendship and understanding between our two countries. Lebanon is keen to continue, develop, and strengthen these relations in various domains to bring good and prosperity to our countries and peoples.

This anniversary falls while Lebanon is struggling to liberate its territory, consolidate its security, and build itself on bases of true democracy under conditions of justice and equality. Lebanon is continuing to perform its role to serve its objectives and those of the area. The evacuation of the Israeli forces from Lebanon is a national duty. It is also an international responsibility and a service to world peace. On this basis we are grateful to your great country, which has always stood at our side to help us to regain our sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Karami on Army Deployment, Security Plan

NC031727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] In an interview to be published by *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI* magazine tomorrow, Prime Minister Rashid Karami questions whether the Lebanese Army could be deployed further than Duhur Bhamdun, particularly after the effect the war has had on the citizens and Army, as he put it. The prime minister said the policy based on the time factor will lead to solving all outstanding problems. He admitted the Army has a sectarian character, but that it is necessary to deal with the facts and go ahead with integrating the Army's brigades in order to unify the military establishment.

Karami pointed out that the security plans are implemented with the agreement of the influential sides so the state's authority can be imposed through cooperation. Karami said that there are Deterrent Forces in some areas and that they cannot be withdrawn before the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya are liberated.

Asked what action would be taken if Sa'd Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] rejects the security plan for Tripoli, Karami said: There are several ways to establish security through agreement or serving the citizens' interests. The people have their stand and there is a sort of unanimity on the need to establish security in the country.

Karami reiterated his rejection of any direct contact with Israel, insisting that such contact should be established through a third state. He expressed his pride in the resistance in the south, saying that it embodies the rejection of the occupation.

Further on Security Plans

NC041241 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpts] In an interview granted to the [Paris-based] *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI*, Prime Minister Rashid Karami dwelt on the current situation in Lebanon and the relationship between this situation and the Arab, regional, and international situation. He also touched on the ongoing contacts with influential states in this regard.

Prime Minister Karami also discussed Lebanon's contacts with friendly states in a bid to gain their support and assist it in riding out its crisis, particularly since it has taken positive steps on the road to implementing the security plan in Greater Beirut — a plan considered to be the nucleus for achieving other steps on the long salvation road. Prime Minister Karami said: Every security plan should first and foremost be based on the agreement of all sides so that we manage through cooperation to spread the state's authority.

Touching on the question of the mountain evacuees, Prime Minister Karami said that this issue is a subject of discussion among the various sides. This shows, he added, that all sides are determined to work out formulas and to create an atmosphere that would enable these evacuees to return to their homes. The time factor, Karami said, is not that important. What actually counts is how to attain the objective. He expressed confidence that this subject will be completed in a normal manner.

While touching on the Saudi role in solving Lebanese problems, Prime Minister Karami highlighted the efforts that are being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by King Fahd. He said: While in Saudi Arabia we sensed complete responsiveness by the Saudi officials to fend off all dangers that are threatening Lebanon. The Saudis bless the salvation march and are prepared to meet all our demands. They will not hesitate to do anything which would contribute toward bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli Army.

Prime Minister Karami pointed out that Saudi officials are also prepared to give assistance, whether on the health or educational level, and they are ready to pay all the money required for a reconstruction program. It is no secret he added that expenses might exceed $15 billion. Saudi Arabia will ask the Gulf and Arab states to contribute toward helping Lebanon.

RFL on Polyakov Talks, Soviet Proposal

NC040603 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department will today continue his discussions with Lebanese officials. Yesterday Polyakov held a first round of talks at the Foreign Ministry. Diplomatic sources have said that the Soviet official listened only to the review made by Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, on topics that concern the government, namely, security, liberation, and reconstruction, and that he was content only to ask some questions.

Lebanese political sources were quoted as saying that the Lebanese side notified the Soviet official, during the first round of the discussions that were held in Bustrus Palace, that it supports the Soviet initiative, provided that the issue of the Lebanese territories occupied by Israel since 1982, be separated from the issue of the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967.

The sources also said that Polyakov was notified of Lebanon's support for solving the Middle Eastern issue, and for the withdrawal of Israel from all Lebanese territories, due to the fact that there are 500,000 Palestinians on its territory. [sentence as heard]

It has been reported that Polyakov expressed his country's readiness to give more support to Lebanon, to resume economic relations with it, and to resume the importation of Lebanese products which Moscow had stopped importing in a noticeable manner during the war years and especially after the Israeli military operation in Lebanon in 1982.

It is worth noting that the Lebanese products which Moscow imports according to the agreement concluded between the two countries in 1971 are apples, citrus fruit, wheat, some garments, and hides. In return, Lebanon imports from the Soviet Union some raw materials, medicines, and iron.

Diplomatic Sources on Talks

NC041223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] The visit to Lebanon by Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department, continues to be the focus of attention in official and political circles, particularly as it comes under very critical circumstances in Lebanon and the region. Polyakov today continued his activities. He met again with Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, at a luncheon banquet held by Ambassador at-Turk at the (Gros Poni) restaurant in Zuq Mikha'il in honor of the Soviet guest.

At the same time, diplomatic sources today shed new light on the talks between the Lebanese and Soviet sides, which will be completed on Monday with a meeting between Rashid Karami, prime minister and foreign minister, and the Soviet diplomat. These sources said that Polyakov raised with the Lebanese side the Soviet stands on proposals concerning disarmament, the arms race, and the establishment of world peace.

These proposals are now included in the agenda of the UN General Assembly session which will start next September, in addition to the Soviet Union's proposal to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Polyakov explained the Soviet Union's stands on these problems and asked that Lebanon support them. The diplomatic sources said that the Lebanese side's stand on Polyakov's proposals is summed up as follows:

1. A country such as Lebanon, which is suffering from [a proliferation of] armament and weapons, can only side with proposals calling for disarmament and stopping the arms race. Lebanon will study the practical details available to the Lebanese and Soviet Governments and through the two countries' missions at the United Nations.

2. Lebanon — this sick country — must first become healthy so that it can share in healing others. Hence, Lebanon shares with the Soviet Union the view that world peace is not only the responsibility of the big powers, but that each country has a share in it.

3. Lebanon welcomes the convocation of a conference to solve the Middle East issue, attended by all parties concerned under UN auspices. The Lebanese side made two observations here: The first is that Lebanon is concerned with solving the region's crisis because the Palestinian issue is one of rights and justice. In addition, there are around 500,000 Palestinians on Lebanese soil, which makes Lebanon support the solving of the problem out of these considerations.

But Lebanon's stand, the diplomatic sources said, must not mean approving linking the solution of the Lebanese problem to the Palestinian issue, particularly as the Lebanese side noted that the Soviet proposal links the solution to the liberation of territories occupied since 1967. The Lebanese side stressed that a solution for the Lebanese problem should not have to wait for any other issue to be solved.

According to the same sources, the Soviet side expressed readiness to contribute toward solving the Lebanese problem as soon as possible.

The second remark made by the Lebanese side deals with another similar plan for solving the Middle East issue. The Lebanese side added that the plan has been submitted by the UN secretary general and that there is no vital contradiction in the two plans. Lebanon is keen to see the conference convened and is in constant cooperation with the United Nations.

While touching on the Lebanese problem, the Lebanese side reiterated basic priorities, namely: internal security, liberation, and reconstruction. The Lebanese side gave its view with regard to security arrangements, pointing out that negotiations with Israel must be indirect, whereas Israel insists on holding direct negotiations.

The Lebanese side expressed the hope for reaching the path that will realize Lebanon's objective: liberation of the land and restoration of national sovereignty over all Lebanon.

The sources have pointed out that the Soviet side had asked if any countries had given answers as to their participation in indirect negotiations. The Lebanese side answered: Some countries have proposed making their good offices available toward this end.

The diplomatic sources added that the Lebanese side raised the question of renewal of the UN Emergency Forces' mandate in the south, which the Soviet Union has always declined to support. The Lebanese side reaffirmed Lebanon's demand that these forces remain in case of any emergency that might arise if Israel withdraws abruptly, as was the case in the mountain area last summer.

Lebanon, the Lebanese side added, wants these forces to be effective and assist the Army and Internal Security Forces, particularly since the UN Security Council's resolutions call for assisting the Lebanese state in spreading its sovereignty.

The Lebanese side expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will adopt a positive stand on this issue. The Lebanese and Soviet sides agreed to continue the discussions on this topic.

The Lebanese side reiterated that Lebanon is serving freedom, justice, and democracy. Lebanon is free, guarantees freedom to others, and enables freedom to develop continuously.

More Contacts Expected Before Cabinet Session

NC060528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] The Cabinet will not hold its planned extraordinary session today because the contacts that were held for this purpose have failed. Meanwhile, intensive contacts will be held preparatory for the Cabinet session on Wednesday, during which the mountain security plan will top all other issues. President Amin al-Jumayyil will assess the contacts with all parties concerned. Prime Minister Rashid Karami will take part in these contacts.

Junblatt Forms 'Shadow Government' in Mountain

NC040536 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Intensive contacts are to be held today, namely, 48 hours before the emergency Cabinet session next Monday in an effort to mend the differences over the mountain security plan — differences that are being exacerbated by Junblatt's rejection of all proposals on the mountain plan. This will undoubtely reflect negatively on all security steps that have thus far been made in Greater Beirut. The contacts are being held in parallel. The first contact is being conducted by the government with Damascus and the second is being held by the government with local leaders who are also contacting the Syrian capital.

Within this context, Syrian sources have affirmed that Damascus was taken aback by the obstacles in the way of implementation in the mountain area and by the difficulties created by some ministers' problems and unrealistic demands. The sources added that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has informed those concerned with the mountain security plan that the Syrian president is totally against any attempt to infringe upon any provision of the security agreement reached with President Amin al-Jumayyil, particularly regarding the need for everyone to facilitate the salvation march.

Observers, however, believe that Junblatt's refusal has been generated by his wager on impending regional developments. What gives rise to fears is that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has taken steps to consolidate the Civil Administration in the mountain area. The PSP yesterday formed a secretariat for its Civil Administration in the mountain. The PSP appointed heads to 16 committees, which can be considered a shadow government, because these committees will be in charge of various affairs including finance, information, public works, post, housing, health, education, statistics, tourism, antiquities, municipal, and rural affairs. The following are the heads of the committees: Hafiz 'Atallah, Sulayman Taqiy ad-Din, Nash'at al-Khatib, Ahmad Firas, Rafiq Hamati, Na'im Shuhayyib, Ma'im Ghannam, Halim Abu Fakhr ad-Din, Muhammad Shayya, 'Adnan al-'Aridi, Hikmat Abu Firaj, Wahidah Sharaf ad-Din, 'Abd as-Salam Abu Hasan, Halim Abu al-Muna, Fadl Talhuq, and Dahir Ghandur.

The committees will report on their work to the Secretariat, which is make up of Tawfiq Barakat, Hisham Nasir ad-Din, 'Ali Jabir, Salah Abu al-Hasan, Hafiz 'Atallah, Dahir Ghandur, and Nabil Ajrudi. Meanwhile, highly placed ministerial sources expressed the conviction that the ongoing contacts, whether on the political or military levels, would contribute toward an immediate removal of all obstacles facing the approval of the security plan for the mountain.

Junblatt Addresses Hammana Meeting 4 Aug

NC041500 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Political cirlces today followed with much interest the meeting that was held at former Minister Najib Abu Haydar's house in the town of Hammana. Today's meeting in Hammana was attended by Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt; Druze spiritual leader Muhammad Abu Shaqra; Bishops George Khadr, Ilyas 'Awdah, Nicolas al-Haj, and Gregori Haddad; Minister Dr Salim al-Huss; former Ministers Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, Ilyas Saba, Michel Khuri, Pierre Khuri, and Pierre Hilu; Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Deputies Najah Wakim, Albert Mansur, and Shafiq Badr; Albert Mukhaybir, deputy for Upper Al-Matn and former minister; Samir Franjiyah; Mrs Khawla Arslan; PSP Secretary General Fu'ad Salman; In'am Ra'd; Colonel Ghazi Kan'an; and 'Abdallah al-Amin, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon.

A number of Christian functionaries attended, including Antoine al-Ashqar, PSP representative in northern Al-Matn; Ilyas al-Habr; Khattar Shibli; Fu'ad as-Sa'd; Najib al-Kik; Khalid ash-Shartuni; Amin al-Khuri; Tuma 'Aridah; and Nawwaf Salam. Also attending were Muhammad al-Ba'labakki and Milhim Karam, deans of the Journalists and Editors Associations respectively; 'Isam Karam, dean of the Lawyers Association; the mayor of Dayr al-Qamar, George Dib Ni'mah; the mayor of Bhamdun ad-Day'ah, Khalil Khayrallah; the mayor of Bhamdun al-Mahattah, Louis Ghusun; the mayor of Rushmayya, Antoine Sam'an; the mayor of Suq al-Gharb, Ilyas Saliba; the mayor of Bkhishtay, 'Adil Karam; the mayor of Majdal M'ush, Joseph al-M'ushi; and the mayor of Ruwaysat an-Na'man, Hasib Dirgham.

The first speaker at the meeting was Najib Abu Haydar. He was followed by Bishop George Khadr and then by PSP leader Walid Junblatt. Here is a recording of Walid Junblatt's speech:

[Begin recording] Gentlemen: The issue of the return of the displaced persons to the mountain and to their homes all over Lebanon is a humanitarian and political issue. Dealing with this issue only from a humanitarian standpoint is different than dealing with it from a political standpoint. We must talk frankly about the political aspect of this issue. Why have the people of An-Nab'ah, the people of Sibnay, the Christians of northern Al-Matn and Kasrawan, and the people of Ash-Shuf been displaced? They have been displaced in order to serve a plan that I believe still exists — a plan to partition Lebanon; a plan whose roots go back to the 19th century and before. This is a plan to create a sectarian entity that is tied to the West, but that will now also be tied to Israel and the United States in order for it to be partitioned and for sectarian statelets to be created.

I do not know if the Lebanese regime, following its abrogation of the 17 May agreement — which inherently sought to tame and expel the people of the mountain — has abandoned this plan, which began during the days of Bashir ash-Shihabi. It proceeded through the well-known campaigns of Ibrahim Basha and through the disarmament of the Druze mountain.

All of us are aware that the Druze mountain is not the present stretch of land in Syria. The Druze mountain was in Lebanon. I say this so we may be frank with each other. The displaced persons cannot possibly return only for humanitarian reasons, ignoring the political aspect of the roots of the issue. This question is therefore addressed to the Lebanese regime, to the pillars of the regime, to the Al-Kaslik [the seat of the spiritual Maronite sect], and to other departments, which continue — as far as I know and believe — to adhere to this plan.

I do not know how a regime that was Israeli yesterday can suddenly become Arab. True, they abrogated the 17 May agreement, but this is not sufficient. We want a realistic, practical application — in the military, cultural, information, and other institutions. We want to be sure that when the legitimate authority enters our areas, it will enter their areas as well. The security plan for the mountain has been obstructed for this reason. Other decisions, such as the formation of the constituent committee and the appointment of deputies, might also be obstructed if we — being a national opposition group that is now temporarily present in the government — see that the regime's leaders are violating the agreement that was concluded in Switzerland under Arab auspices, led by Syria. These decisions might also be obstructed if we see that they are taking advantage of the time factor to resume their attack on us.

Good intentions will appear later in implementing the security plan and in dealing with the situation in the south seriously, and not only through the information media. When these intentions appear, all of us can then say that Lebanon has returned to the Arab fold and that the displaced persons from all sects will return to their areas unconditionally. When we are assured that at least a minimum of balance has been established in the military institution, which was built to serve the aforementioned plan, we will hand over our weapons. I declare frankly that we will not lay down our weapons if the military institution remains in its present form, if the Phalangists continue with the same intentions, and if the Al-Kaslik and other departments continue striving to establish a state for a certain sect that is tied to Israel and the West.

We are an indivisible part of the Arab world. We want clear-cut relations with the Arab world, especially with Syria. Syria will always be the model for the Arabism of all Lebanon, in all its communities. Syria will always be the bastion on which all plots shall founder. The war of the mountain was not a minor sectarian war; it was a great national war. While all the Arabs retreated, only Syria supported the mountain war to help to destroy the Israeli-American-isolationist plot.

This meeting at this house of Najib Abu Haydar — through whose efforts national understanding and real coexistence has been maintained in the Al-Matn area — is important. At this meeting, I reiterate the same questions to the Lebanese regime — to Amin al-Jumayyil and to all those in government: We are in the government only temporarily, thank God. [laughter] I address this question to the other party: Has it abandoned its old schemes which we have come to know by heart? History is repeating itself. Peace be upon you. [end recording]

Junblatt, Sham'un Discuss Issue of Evacuees

NC051443 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt arrived in Dayr al-Qamar at 1330. He was received at the Sayyidat at-Tallah churchyard by [former] President Camille

Sham'un, Dany Sham'un, and a number of the town's dignitaries. PSP leader Junblatt, Camille Sham'un, and the town dignitaries then went to the Dayr al-Qamar mayor's residence, and from there to As'ad Rinnuh's residence, where they had lunch.

Camille Sham'un had the following to say about the visit and its political dimensions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Some people have linked this initiative with the mountain security plan and the return of evacuees. Now that you are in Dayr al-Qamar, what do you think about all these issues?

[Sham'un] I am convinced that every citizen of the Ash-Shuf, led by leader Walid Junblatt, is prepared to establish peace, security, understanding, and cooperation. If the security plan is successful, it could also contribute toward consolidating security and tranquility. It is a basic factor, however, for every son of the Ash-Shuf to be convinced that the Ash-Shuf should return to its previous condition, when peace, freedom, and prosperity prevailed. When every son of the Ash-Shuf believes in this, we will be assured that life will return to normal. This depends, of course, on the state's suitable and wise security arrangements, because these would contribute to realizing a normal life.

[Reporter] Walid Junblatt said yesterday that the issue of the evacuees is two-sided — political and humanitarian. Junblatt said the Lebanese regime has been one of privilege since 1952. For this reason, he wants a political reform and considers the return of the evacuees to the Ash-Shuf as a start for the Lebanese national accord and political reform. What is your comment on this?

[Sham'un] The return of the evacuees must take place soon, regardless of the circumstances. The evacuees must return because this is a basic condition for a stable and secure life in the Ash-Shuf.

[Reporter] Can there be stability, in terms of opportunities, in the absence of equality?

[Sham'un] I do not think you need a lesson in political philosophy. [laughter] We all believe in this kind of equality. But what actually happens does not always reflect our ideas. We must work to attain our objectives.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Immediately following the statements by Camille Sham'un, PSP Leader Walid Junblatt said the following:

[Begin recording][Unidentified reporter] You said yesterday that the Ash-Shuf does not represent only Al-Mukhtarah. What are the practical steps that have been taken during the past 24 hours?

[Junblatt] It is not strange for me to be in Dayr al-Qamar. Likewise, it is not strange for Camille Sham'un to be in Dayr al-Qamar in the Ash-Shuf. We have a complete understanding. It goes without saying that what took place in the Ash-Shuf was a big tragedy. We therefore must draft programs for returning the evacuees. They must return to their property and enjoy a dignified life. This will not be easy, but when Sham'un and I decide, I believe that we will be able to reach — far from political competition and showmanship — the required objective. We should not forget all the evacuees in Lebanon. But, I believe that Lebanon will never attain unity if the mountain areas remain divided.

[Sham'un, interrupting] I agree.

[Reporter] You said yesterday that the issue of the evacuees has been linked with Lebanese events since 1975 and that the return of the evacuees to the mountain must accompany the return of all the evacuees to their homes in Lebanon. Does this apply to Dayr al-Qamar and the Ash-Shuf?

[Junblatt] We believe the issue of the evacuees is a national issue, and, therefore, a higher commission in charge of evacuees must be formed. As I said previously, we believe that the return of the evacuees to the Ash-Shuf is a start for the establishment of real national unity in Lebanon and for the obstruction of any partition that could destroy Lebanon's independence and unity.

[Reporter] Is the return of evacuees linked with the political amendment?

[Junblatt] Lebanese leaders agreed in Lausanne to amend the political structure. This was contained in the Lausanne document and that is what we will have to discuss with President Amin al-Jumayyil as part of the political reform which must incorporate this document. The document could be incomplete, but at least it is a step forward, so let us accept this step.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Sham'un Calls for Return of 2 Southern Areas

NC041143 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un has attacked Israel for seizing the areas of ('Amrah) and Al-Wazzani and for annexing them to the border zone. He described this action as being contrary to all legal and international norms. Sham'un urged Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south affairs, to investigate the reports on this and to carry out the necessary contacts to regain these areas. This statement was carried today by *AL-AHRAR* newspaper, the mouthpiece of the National Liberal Party.

Birri Discusses Israeli Practices in South

NC041830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and water and electrical resources, held a news conference today during which he dealt with the security, political, and social aspects of the Lebanese situation. He said he will not attend the Cabinet session on Monday if the issue of teachers on temporary contracts is not raised and action is not taken to confirm their posts. Minister Birri said the following:

[Begin recording] Last Saturday we said Israel had decided to seize the south and we alerted the Lebanese and the Arabs. Now that a week has passed, the [Israeli] plan in the south has become so clear that one can identify its features. By its actions of taking a slice of Lebanese territory in the borderline area and digging trenches in the western Al-Biqa', one can clearly see that Israel is translating its intention to turn southern Lebanon into a northern bank into deeds. Israel issued a statement in the south 4 days ago, calling on some Amal Movement leaders and other southern leaders to choose between leaving or being assassinated. These leaders included teachers, doctors, and academics. This confirms that Israel is continuing to exert pressure, issue warnings, and violate the sanctity of homes, the latest but not the last of which was the house of Brother Ulema Shaykh Muhsin Subayti in the town of Kafr Sir. All this is in addition to besieging several villages, attacking the town of Jba', activating its agents, and creating further obstacles and hindrances at the Batir checkpoint.

These and other actions no longer attract the attention of those who claim to be humanitarians and to uphold human rights. Furthermore, these actions are completely contrary to all the international laws designed to preserve the dignity and rights of the citizens under occupation. Israel's behavior toward the prisoners and the mujahidin it has detained once again sheds light on the new Nazism that is now committing the ugliest of crimes in southern Lebanon. [end recording]

Army Formulates Plan To Extend Control

NC041820 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Beirut, Aug 4 (AFP) — The Army has worked out a peace plan to extend its control to the mountains outside the capital held by Shi'ite and Druze militias and will submit it to the Cabinet on Monday, well-informed sources said today. The three-stage compromise plan was worked out following wide disagreement over the issue at a Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Intelligence Chief Colonel Simon Qassis had contacted the leaders of the two opposing militias, Druze Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Amal leader Nabih Birri, both Cabinet ministers, about the plan yesterday, and discussed it with Prime Minister Rashid Karami today. Mr Junblatt also discussed the blueprint today with President Amin al-Jumayyil. The plan is aimed at gradually replacing the forces of Mr Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and of Mr Birri's Amal Movement with Lebanese Army Forces in the areas controlled by the two militias.

In a first stage, the mainly Druze 11th Brigade would be deployed along the Beirut-Damascus Highway as far as Syrian positions at Sawfar, 27 km (17 miles) east of here and in the Suq al-Gharb sector, where Army and Druze militiamen have repeatedly clashed.

The Army would also take over the coast road south of Beirut to Ad-Damur, 20 km (13 miles) from here, which is currently controlled by the PSP. In a second step, the Army would spread 15 km (9 miles) north of Beirut to Nahr al-Kalb and south to the Israeli positions at the Al-Awwali River 40 km (25 miles) out. At the same time, the Army would take control of all roads in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh Mountains, now held by the Druze PSP, paving the way for a return of Christians who fled the mountains during heavy fighting last September.

In a third step, the Army would move north along the Beirut-Tripoli Road to the Madfyn Bridge 40 km (25 miles) from here, to take full control of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh Mountains, and the Kasrawan Mountains north of here, currently held by the unified Christian militia Lebanese Forces. Syria, a major outside influence on Lebanese politics, wants a speedy application of a peace plan for the mountains but is leaving the details to the Lebanese, a well-informed source said here.

Meanwhile, Mr Birri said he would continue to boycott Cabinet meetings until the awarding of permanent contracts to 5,000 temporary schoolteachers was discussed. Justice Minister Mr Birri was quoted today in *AN-NAHAR* newspaper as saying he opposed but understood the recent executions of two men carried out by the Druze in the Ash-Shuf Mountains. One man had been found guilty by a special court of participating in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camp massacres and the other of stealing PSP funds. "As minister of justice, I condemn such practices, but I understand that in the field, someone must fill the gap left by the state in this area," he said.

Lebanese Forces Adviser on Kidnapped Persons

NC031750 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Karim Baqraduni, the Lebanese Forces' political adviser, disclosed that West Beirut's political leaders asked the Lebanese Forces not to release the names or the number of the kidnapped persons that they are detaining. They also asked them to delay their release in order to avoid any complications. The reason for this request is that the West Beirut leaders have deceived many people by telling them that their kidnapped relatives are still alive and that it is possible to get them back.

Baqraduni said the number of the kidnapped Christian persons is 1,424. If the West Beirut leaders are going to blame us for the difference between the 80 kidnapped persons and the 2,111 persons that they claimed to have been kidnapped, Baqraduni said, then we will blame them for the difference between the 70 kidnapped persons that they are detaining and the number that we announced.

Baqraduni urged the official fact-finding committee to set a date for releasing the kidnapped persons all at once, suggesting this take place on 31 August — the anniversary of late President Bashir al-Jumayyil's inauguration. Baqraduni also suggested that a code of ethics ending kidnapping should be henceforth accepted by all parties. Baqraduni called for stopping the political haggling surrounding the issue of the kidnapped persons, saying: We have all made mistakes. But, while we have enough courage to admit our mistakes, the others pretend to be innocent and continue to make mistakes and to sin.

Exchange of Kidnapped Persons Reported

NC051614 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Forces and the Islamic Unification Movement exchanged kidnapped persons at 1530 today. The exchange took place at the Army Command Building in the north, under the supervision of Colonel 'Abd al-Hamim Khurbatli, chief of military intelligence in the north, and Captain Sa'id 'Id.

PSP, Al-Murabitun Reach Agreement on West Beirut

NC031953 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] A meeting was held in Dar al-Fatwa this evening between the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun. The PSP was represented by Dr Bahij 'Arbid, 'Abd al-Ghani Sinnu, 'Isam Rantrazi, Abu Sa'id, Abu Haytham, and Abu Firas. Al-Murabitun was represented by 'Atif ad-Durubi, Fu'ad Hasan, Abu Muhammad Harb, and 'Imad Husam. The meeting was held under the auspices of Dar al-Ifta', which was represented by former Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ruhman al-Labban, Shaykh Khalil al-Mays, Shaykh Khaldun 'Uraymah, and Yasin Mazbudi. Also attending the meeting were Lieutenant Colonel 'Isam ad-Dinati for the Lebanese Army and Captain Nabil Mar'i for the Internal Security Forces. Following deliberations, the conferees agreed on the following:

1. To disarm renegades, abolish all states of alert, eliminate and strictly prohibit armed activities, emphasize the role of the security forces and Armed Forces in implementing all parts of the security plan in Beirut, send away all undisciplined men, and hand over wanted men to the Internal Security Forces.

2. To emphasize the role of the Joint Security Committee, which was formed by Dar al-Fatwa, in order to ensure liaison, exchange information, implement decisions, and quickly settle any differences.

3. To prevent any form of provocation.

4. To ensure information coordination between the two parties with the available effective information media.

5. To have both parties announce this agreement over the Voice of Arab Lebanon, the Voice of the Mountain, television, and the official Beirut radio.

The agreement was signed by the Al-Murabitun and the PSP before a delegation from Dar al-Fatwa.

Clashes Reported in Iqlim al-Kharrub Area

NC051947 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] While Lebanese Front leader [former] President Camille Sham'un and Walid Junblatt were discussing the return of the displaced persons to the mountain during Sham'un's visit to Dayr al-Qamar and Al-Mukhtarah today, the Lebanese Forces violated the cease-fire in Iqlim al-Kharrub at 1500. They shelled Al-Mughayriyah, Mazbud, and the neighborhood of Shhim, using all types of weapons, artillery, and rockets.

Our security correspondent reports that the shelling eased a short time ago, that some vehicles moved from 'Ayn al-Hawr and Mazra'at ad-Dahr, and that gunfire was directed at Bsaba from Al-Mtullah. The gunfire later expanded to Gharifah and is continuing.

Tension Follows Hezbollah-Syrian Forces Clash

NC060841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' reports that tension is prevailing in the Ba'labakk region following last night's clash in the Government House Square between gunmen from the Hezbollah and Syrian forces. Two persons from the Ar-Rifa'i family were wounded in this clash. The clash was caused by a dispute between a member of the Hezbollah and Syrian forces when the latter prevented him from parking his car in the Ba'labakk Government House Square. A hand grenade was subsequently thrown and clashes with machine guns broke out.

RFL Says Factional Clashes Resume in Tripoli

NC031708 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Clashes resumed in Tripoli between the Islamic Unification Movement and the 'Alawite Red Knights shortly after 1800. The clashes are taking place in the areas of At-Tabbanah, Ba'l Muhsin, Al-'Umari, Suq al-Qamh, Harat as-Sayyidah, and Harat al-Barraniyah.

Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, said during the funeral of movement official Dr 'Ismat Murad that Tripoli has become a camp similar to the Ansar camp [detention camp] and that it is impossible to leave. He added that those who want to fight Israel are those who are surrounding the city. Sh'aban asked if Syria can determine who exacerbates the situation in Tripoli and why the deterioration of the situation always coincides with the arrival of Prime Minister Rashid Karami to Tripoli. Addressing Karami, Sha'ban said: Are these signs of the security plan, Your Excellency the prime minister? Are these a token of the deeds of your government — the government of national unity?

VOL Says Clashes Abate

NC040651 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] The intensity of the clashes in Tripoli abated early today, but concentrated sniper fire continues to reign on all combat lines in At-Tabbanah, Tal'at al-'Umari, Suq al-Qamh, and Harat as-Sayyidah. Reports reaching us this morning say that yesterday's clashes left many people dead or wounded. Fierce clashes resumed last night between the Islamic Unification Movement and the Arab Democratic Party. Heavy-caliber artillery and rockets were used during the clashes.

RFL Claims Amal Involved in Gunboat Incident

NC031622 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The Lebanese Army 6th Brigade today told news agencies about an exchange of fire with Israeli gunboats opposite the Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda' coast. The Lebanese Army Command said it had no knowledge of the incident. Later on, it was ascertained that Amal Movement gunmen fired at the Israeli boats. This shows how tight a grip this movement has over the 6th Brigade.

Israeli Ships 'Bombarded' Beirut Area 3 Aug

NC040529 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] At 2130 last night, units of the 6th Brigade confronted three Israeli warships which were cruising off Normandy Beach.

The brigade units fired at the Israeli warships which bombarded the Al-Awza'i area.

It should be recalled that Israeli warships attempted to approach the Ar-Ramlah al-Nayda' shore but were confronted by the 6th Brigade, forcing them to retreat.

Iranian Revolution Guard Corps Minister Arrives

JN031806 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and his delegation arrived in Damascus today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Ahmad Diyab, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; a number of national security [al-amn al-qawmi] officials; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus and the embassy staff. In a statement to SANA, Rafiqdust said that his visit aims at strengthening and promoting the two countries friendly relations. He expressed Iran's appreciation for and pride in Syria's pan-Arab role of confronting all the plots that are being woven against the Arab and Islamic nations.

Received by Ba'th Official

JN041836 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] At 1900 today, Ahmad Diyab, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, received Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and his accompanying delegation. The Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the talks centered on ways to develop bilateral relations and on the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab and Islamic nations, which is aimed at subjugating them and peddling the capitulatory and defeatist solutions. Comrade Diyab explained Syria's principled, firm position under the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, as well as its confrontation of all the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies that are being concocted against our Arab nation.

Haj Moshen Rafiqdust expressed his appreciation for Syria's heroic, courageous positions against Israel's invasion of fraternal Lebanon, he stressed that the great victory achieved by the Lebanese anti-nationalist forces, with the support of Syria, in undermining the 17 May agreement is not only a victory for Lebanon, but also a victory for the Arab and Islamic nations.

Talas Receives Iranian Official

JN051221 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] At 1115 today, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

After welcoming the guest delegation, Talas praised the fateful relations between Syria and Iran in their joint struggle against colonialism, Zionism, and U.S. imperialism. Talas affirmed that Syria condemned the Iraq-Iran war from the start — a war that is being waged by Saddam Husayn against the Iranian revolution. This is because this war only serves the Arab nation's enemies. Talas added: We and the Iranian brothers agree that the war should not be expanded, that no Gulf state should become involved in this war, and that oil tankers should not be shelled.

Gen Talas talked about the Lebanese situation, affirming that Syria will confront any attempt to tamper with Lebanon's security or people. He said that Syria will support the Lebanese march toward accord and will help the Lebanese to expel the Zionist invaders from the south. He affirmed the importance of achieving a strategic balance with the enemy to liberate the occupied Arab territories and secure the return of the Palestinians to their land.

The head of the Iranian delegation then praised the Iranian-Syrian relations. He said that Iran will stand alongside Syria toward regaining Arab land and liberating Jerusalem from the enemy. On the Iraq-Iran war, the minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps said that Iran abides by not shelling the oil tankers that pass through the Gulf and that Iran has no ambitions in Arab land. He affirmed the need to overthrow the Iraqi regime headed by Saddam Husayn who started the war. He said that Iran opposes any foreign intervention in the war.

At the end of the meeting, Talas presented the head of the Iranian delegation with the Syrian Army's symbolic sword.

Al-Asad Receives Iranian Official

JN051926 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, and the delegation accompanying him. Ahmad Diyab, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks revolved around the situation in the region and issues of mutual interest. Rafiqdust conveyed a message to the president from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. The message stressed the importance of Syria's role in aborting the imperialist conspiracy against our countries, and the Islamic Iranian revolution's appreciation for that role.

The president asked the Iranian minister to convey a reply message as well as his greetings to President Khamene'i and to the Iranian leadership. President al-Asad also expressed Syria's appreciation for the Iranian revolution's position from the beginning, and for its efforts to foil the imperialist plans in the region.

Iranian Minister Departure Statement

JN060925 Damascus SANA in Arbic 0900 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 6 Aug [SANA] — Haj Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, has expressed pleasure over his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He described the meeting as good and a product of the relations that bind the two friendly countries together. Prior to his departure from Damascus today, Rafiqdust emphasized that his talks with the Syrian officials were successful and positive.

The Iranian minister left Damascus before noon at the end of a 4-day official visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad and conveyed to him a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

Minister Supports USSR Proposals

JN042114 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2050 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug (SANA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of information and foreign affairs, has praised Kuwaiti-Syrian relations and described them as good. This came in a statement to a SANA correspondent in Tripoli this evening. In the statement, Al-Ahmad reiterated his country's support for the Soviet Middle East peace initiative. He said: We call on the USSR to move to have this initiative succeed. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described the hostile U.S. policy in the Gulf region and the Red Sea as serious. He said: We have to take care of ourselves first.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this evening after representing his country in the meetings of the seventh session of the Permanent Committee of Arab-African Cooperation.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives

JN050656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at 0040 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his pleasure on visiting Syria and said: I am carrying a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. I am also pleased to meet with my brother and colleague Faruq ash-Shar' to discuss a number of issues of interest to everyone both in the Arab Gulf and in the Arab region as a whole.

Meets With President al-Asad

LD051247 Kuwait KUNA in English 1144 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, Aug 5 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad delivered Sunday a message from H.H. the amir of Kuwait to president Hafiz al-Asad of Syria. The message, delivered in the presence of the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', deals with [the] latest developments in the Gulf region and Arab area. Shaykh Sabah, who arrived here early Sunday morning, met earlier today with Ash-Shar' on current Arab developments particularly in the Gulf.

Shaykh Sabah's visit to Damascus coincides with a visit to Kuwait by the Deputy Chairman of Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim who met H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah for talks on latest developments of the Gulf war.

Minister on Al-Asad Meeting

LD051339 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1302 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 5 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, foreign affairs and information minister, said after his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he conveyed a message to President al-Asad from his brother His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahamd as-Sabah concerning the Arab situation in general and the situation in the Gulf in particular.9 In a statement to KUNA, he added that he discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad all the issues concerning the Arab nation and the future of Arab relations, especially before the holding of the Arab summit conference which is to be held within the next few months and which we all hope will succeed in consolidating Arab solidarity and removing the current disputes between Arab countries.

The presidential palace press spokesman said that President Hafiz al-Asad gave Shaykh Sabah a reply message to His Highness the amir. He said that during the meeting they discussed the situation in the region, developments in the Gulf region and issues of joint interest.

Concerning the resumption of Kuwaiti efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said, "They will continue, God willing, in better circumstances," stressing that he has not met with Iranian Minister of the Revolutionary Guard Rafiqdust, who is currently in Damascus. He said: "When I was in Libya to attend the meetings of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation, His Highness the amir asked me to visit Damascus to convey a message from His Highness to President al-Asad. I do not know about the presence of the Iranian minister in Damascus, bearing in mind that even had I known of his presence I would still have carried out the visit commissioned by the amir."

He ended his statement by saying that he conveyed condolences from his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent, the Kuwaiti Government and people to President al-Asad on the death of his nephew.

Shaykh Sabah expressed his optimism that Arab relations will be restored to normal, stressing that whatever the differences between the Arab brothers, these differences will one day be removed. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Shar' offered a lunch banquet in honor of Shaykh Sabah in Ash-Sham Hotel in Damascus, which was attended by senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Khaddam Receives Kuwaiti Minister

JN051837 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Talks centered on current Arab issues.

Foreign Minister Departs 5 Aug

JN051856 Damascus Televison Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah left Damascus at 1830 today following a 1-day visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', the assistant director of protocol in the Foreign Ministry, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Damascus, and the embassy staff were at Damascus International Airport to see him off.

Peres Chosen To Form Israeli Government

JN051223 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The Zionist entity's president, Hayim Herzog, this afternoon asked Zionist Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres to form the new Israeli Government. The enemy radio, which broadcast the report, admitted that there is general agreement that the Israeli economic situation has reached a very serious stage.

Further on Israeli Government

JN051724 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Zionist Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres said today, after being asked to form the new Zionist government, that his future government's priorities are to support the stages for implementing the Camp David accords and to strengthen the Zionist army. Peres added that his government will also work to solve the economic problems from which Israel is suffering.

Immediately after he was asked to form the new government, Peres phoned Yitzhaq Shamir, Likud Party leader and the current Zionist enemy prime minister, and invited him to resume the negotiations the two sides held earlier. Peres said today that he hopes to form a new government based on the alliance with the Likud, pointing out that such a government will be able to tackle the existing situation and to assume the duties which he has drawn up for his future government.

Damascus Raps McFarlane's Statement on Deterrence

JN041332 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's adviser for national security affairs, has said that the United States should be ready to use force to confront many threats. He also said that deterrence has prevented nuclear war in the past years, although there are continuing disputes on other levels, such as terrorist attacks and the rebellion movements in Asia, Central America, and the Middle East.

When McFarlane talks about deterrence, he does not speak in the scientific sense of the word, nor does he present a theoretical matter for discussion. He is talking in his capacity as a man in charge of issues related to peace, war, international relations, and the fate of mankind in the U.S. Administration, which controls an immense depot of nuclear, nitrogen, and chemical weapons sufficient to destroy human life on this globe.

It is difficult to believe that when Robert McFarlane speaks about deterrence he means the United States deterring the USSR — its main opponent in the world. The USSR has potentials and resources enough to remove the idea of military deterrence from the mind. The Reagan administration has proved during Reagan's presidency and by undermining the principles of detente and coexistence that the United States is incapable of reaching a situation in which it can talk about deterring the USSR and the socialist bloc. It is also incapable of upsetting the strategic balance between the USSR and the United States.

Soviet leaders have asserted that they will not allow the United States to achieve strategic superiority over the socialist bloc countries. The United States and the entire world know that the potentials and resources of the United States — the leader of colonialist system in the world — are defined by the potentials and resources of its opponents — the USSR and the socialist bloc. Consequently, we can say that when McFarlane speaks of deterrence, he does not really mean the USSR and the socialist bloc, whose potentials, progressive and sophisticated weapon systems, and weapons of mass annihilation are enough to turn any U.S. military adventure into a horrible nuclear catastrophe in the United States and the world.

Who then is McFarlane threatening? This U.S. official who was President Reagan's personal envoy to the Middle East and who had a big role in the U.S. military interfenrece in Lebanon — interference which resulted in a well-known big military and political defeat for the United States and its policy in the Middle East despite all the U.S. forces, warships, and planes used in this interference — did not hesitate to mention the Middle East among the areas which might be scenes for the U.S. military deterrence.

The Middle East has always been a target of U.S. ambitions. Thus, the United States concluded a strategic alliance with Israel, coordinated its policy with Israel, opened its arsenal to Israel, lavished Israel with funds, and was its partner in the invasion of Lebanon by agreeing on the decision to invade, by providing it with weapons, and then by offering its continued political and financial support. The United States failed to realize its objective in Lebanon and in the region despite its direct military interference and its clash with Syria. The opportunities of success for any direct U.S. military interference or through Israel under the current regional and international circumstances and situation are very weak and cost high prices.

If McFarlane, Reagan, and the others have not yet comprehended the significance and lesson of their defeat in Lebanon and of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, they must remember the lesson of Vietnam, assess Lebanon's adventure, and predict through all this the fate of military interference in the region and the fate of U.S. presence in the region. The time when colonialism was able to act as it wants and to commit aggression without deterrence has gone. Anyone can make whatever statements he wants, but deeds are limited by existing circumstances and potentials.

Soviet Media Cited on Al-Asad's LE MONDE Remarks

JN041717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Moscow — Soviet media have highlighted President Hafiz al-Asad's recent interview with the French paper *LE MONDE*. *PRAVDA*, which carried excerpts of the interview, said that President Hafiz al-Asad has expressed Syria's desire to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of the United Nations and the international community. The paper noted the president's assertion that all efforts that have been, and are being exerted to achieve peace in the area have always clashed with Israel's expansionist ambition, which is receiving unlimited U.S. support to carry out the alleged Zionist plan concerning the establishment of greater Israel at the expense of the Arab people and territory.

In its newscast, Moscow television prominently reported President Hafiz al-Asad's assertion that Syria will, as usual, support Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and that the strong historical ties between Syria and Lebanon make Syria the real supporter that does not hesitate in giving all possible aid to its brothers in Lebanon.

In its English, French, Russian, and Arabic services, Moscow radio highlighted the president's statement that the Israeli elections will not lead to change in Israel's expansionist policy because the rival parties are still wagering on the policy of aggression and the usurpation of Arab territories. The radio also highlighted the president's assertion that Syria will continue to support the Palestinian resistance movement against hostile and capitulation plans, which the enemies are trying to enforce on the Arab region.

Al-Asad Receives USSR Ambassador, Message

JN051046 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] At 1045 this morning, President Hafiz al-Asad received Vladimir Yukhin, the USSR ambassador in Damascus, who conveyed to the president a message from Chairman Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Ba'th Official Confers With PDRY Ambassador

JN040919 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 4 Aug (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received PDRY Ambassador 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman today. They exchanged opinions on cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the YSP and on the results of the party delegation's visit to the PDRY. They also exchanged views on coordinating joint efforts to continue developing the relations between the two fraternal parties and countries and to continue their joint activities in the Arab and international arenas in the service of the Arab struggle.

Talas Discusses Role in Gulf Conflict

LD031615 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1527 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] London, 3 Aug (KUNA) — Syrian Defense Minister Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas has warned that Syrian will stand on the side of the Arab countries and become a party to the Gulf conflict if Iran attacks any of the Gulf Countries. Talas was speaking in an interview with the Saudi magazine *AL-MAJALLAH*, which is published in Arabic in London. In his interview, which will be published tomorrow, Talas pointed out that Syria "has obtained assurances from Iran that it will not violate the sovereignty of any of the Arab countries."

Talas said that Syria has obtained these assurances "from Imam Khomeyni personally." He expressed his belief that the attacks on some oil tankers in the Gulf were "by mistake."

He affirmed that Syria wishes to see an end to the war between Iraq and Iran, which has been raging over 46 months, "through negotiations." He pointed out that Damascus can only influence one side, which is Iran.

Talas disclosed that the USSR offered guarantees to Damascus that it will not permit "anyone to defeat Syria."

Lebanese Ba'th Party Issues Statement

JN041741 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Beirut, 4 Aug (SANA) — In a statement issued here today, the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization stressed that undermining the ill-omened 17 May agreement and foiling the hegemonial U.S.-Zionist plans against Lebanon have formed a strong base for starting the march of security and peace in Lebanon. The statement praised the militant positions of the Lebanese nationalist masses and their organizations as well as fraternal Syria's positions under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting all the aggressive conspiracies being concocted against Lebanon.

The statement praised the success of the security plan in Beirut and called for removing all the loopholes to implement the security plan, open all crossing points and routes between East and West Beirut, and send the Army to all the vital positions, especially Beirut port. It also called for building an army unified in its social structure and national course so it can become a combat force able to contribute to the efforts aimed at liberating the south and the western Al-Biqa' from the Zionist occupation forces. The statement also confirmed that the security and political solutions are closely related.

The statement called for positive political action aimed at protecting the security plan from the conspirators trying to turn it into a gate that would lead to security and political decentralization. It also stressed the need for reopening government institutions and expanding parliamentary representation by increasing the number of the Chamber of Deputies members to 120. It called on the Chamber of Deputies to assume its responsibilities and to prepare appropriate circumstances for realizing comprehensive, national aspirations. The organization also greeted the Lebanese resistance for its heroic actions against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

At the end of the statement, the organization said that they are fully aware of the important and serious role of President Hafiz al-Asad's Syria in saving Lebanon and achieving security, stability, justice, and democracy in Lebanon, and that the Lebanese masses view Syria's pan-Arab postion and duties, which are in harmony with its historic position, as having a special importance.

Herzog Asks Peres To Form New Government

TA051051 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1001 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Speech by President Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence in Jerusalem on the occasion of asking Alignment leader Shim'on Peres to form the next government — live]

[Text] My announcement is to a certain extent exceptional, but this is also an exceptional time which calls for an extraordinary attitude. After consulting with the parties' representatives according to the law, I find it is my duty in view of the special circumstances to inform the citizens of the State of Israel of the considerations that shaped my decision.

In the consulations I held, all the parties expressed their agreement that the situation has deteriorated into perhaps the most difficult and dangerous economic circumstances the state has experienced since its establishment. Everybody is aware of the seriousness of the economic situation we are currently experiencing and the dangers looming over us if this deterioration is not curbed at once. The crisis might come earlier than we expect.

The national debate revolved around diverse issues: Lebanon, foreign policy, negotiations with the Arab world, settlement, social issues, and so forth. Nobody doubts, however, that as the economy continues to deteriorate our security posture will weaken, our political independence will be lost, and the arguments over settlement issues will become merely theoretical.

The truth must be said: This situation need not be this way. We have done and will continue to do miracles in the technological field, in agriculture, and industry; in many fields we are at the top of the world ladder. A country the size of the State of Israel which exports goods and services to the tune of $11 billion a year has the strength to overcome this difficult situation we are going through.

We must not, however, just worry about the economic problems. Our democracy is being threatened and in the absence of a democratic government based on the will of the majority of the people, the State of Israel has no future. The greatest threat hanging over us today comes from within. It stems from intolerance and the absence of a dialogue between different types of religious people, between religious and secular people, between one sect and another, between one people and another, and — to our shame — has already acquired frightening and disgraceful public expressions which are despicable. This polarization and this threat underscore the vital need for a strong democratic government able to protect our democratic values and able to stop the deterioration in this area.

It is my feeling that the majority of the people, by and large, want a strong and stable government which would be able to deal effectively with the serious problems we are experiencing in all fields. This is the reason why a few days ago I believed it was my duty, in view of the clear will of the people as reflected both in the media and in numerous appeals by the public to my office, to summon the leaders of the two largest factions in the Knesset and to plead with them to make every possible effort to establish a national unity government based on cooperation among all the central streams in the nation and which would set up a national order of priorities, first and foremost, restoring the economy.

To my joy, both parties heeded my request and began talks. This is not enough, however. The law compels me to hold consultations with the various factions and to entrust the task of forming a government to one of the Knesset members, because in the absence of such a move it is clear to me and to everybody else that a government cannot be formed. Moreover, as long as the president does not decide to whom to entrust this task and the two largest parties each persist in arguing that it is their right, I do not believe it is logical or realistic to think that the issue of establishing a national unity government will advance significantly. Our situation calls for a speedy resolution rather than procrastination.

The law has granted the president full authority to decide with whom to entrust the task of forming a government. Israeli presidents have always decided to entrust this task to the candidate of the largest Knesset faction. Following the resignation of Mr Menahem Begin in September 1983, it was made clear to me that although the Likud faction was not the biggest faction it enjoyed the support of the absolute majority of the Knesset members. Therefore, I decided to entrust the task of forming the government to Mr Shamir.

This time the situation is different. Elections were held, and in my talks with representatives of the factions in the 11th Knesset it emerged that factions representing the largest number of Knesset members recommended the candidacy of Mr Peres. It is clear that in this case, and even had there been a tie, the will of the voters as reflected in the Knesset elections should play a decisive role. In a democratic nation, even one vote can tip the scales.

Therefore, and considering the fact that Mr Peres heads the list which obtained more votes than any other list — in this case, with a difference of approximately 63,000 votes — I decided to entrust Mr Shim'on Peres with the task of trying to form the government.

In making this decision, I would like to emphasize the will of the people for a strong democratic government based on national unity and the hope that Mr Peres will succeed in bringing this about.

I hope that the destruction of the Great Temple which took place in this city some 1,900 years ago this week in the wake of the polarization of the people and futile hatred will encourage us to raise ourselves as a nation and close ranks and with the help of God to overcome difficulties and prosper.

In keeping with the power accorded to me in the Basic Law: The Government, I have just entrusted Knesset Member Shim'on Peres with the task of forming a government in Israel. Mr Peres has informed me that he is prepared to shoulder this mission. I congratulate Mr Peres and wish him success in his efforts.

The state needs speedy resolutions rather than procrastination and I hope this process will end shortly. I cannot fail to emphasize to Mr Peres the widespread will of the people for a government that symbolizes stability and unity.

Peres Accepts Task

TA051119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1010 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Speech by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres at the presidential residence in Jerusalem on the occasion of his being asked to form the next government — live]

[Text] Mr President, ladies and gentlemen: I thank the president of Israel for giving me the task of forming the next Israeli Government. I am well aware of the gravity of the task and of the people's expectations. According to our calendar, this is a time of national stress [the time when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans]. We will pass through this time safely and give our people a future filled with hope. In keeping with the democratic elections in our country I will act to the best of my ability to estbalish a government that will respect the choice of the voters, but I will act diligently to reflect the will of the people as it was expressed after the elections — and the president has emphasized this point now — to establish a government that will be as broad as possible, a national unity government which will bridge the gaps which have developed, a government which will derive its strength from the roots of our existence, and which will act in the interests of all our people.

I believe in a democratic government based on the decisions of the majority and on respect for the rights of the minority. Therefore, I will act to establish a government of rapprochement, a government based on good will, a government that will bridge the social gap, sectarian differences, spiritual differences, and national differences, a government that will respect the religious community and its needs, and a government that will avoid religious coercion, in a place where we must establish understanding and tolerance. The economic situation, the security problems, the political challenges demand that we form a government as soon as possible. I call upon the 11th Knesset factions to lend a hand in the urgent formation of the next government.

The next government first of all will have to combat the economic problems; it will have to stabilize the economy and build a modern economy which will fit the new economic era in the world.

It will have to take the necessary steps to secure the safety of the Galilee villages, and then return our soldiers home. It will have to ensure the strengthening of the IDF, implement the Camp David accords, and renew the peace process in the whole region.

It will have to secure equal rights for all Israeli citizens without regard for religious or national origin. It will have to maintain the status quo in religious matters, and initiate a drive in matters of economy and state. Therefore, all of us will make every effort to rise above our differences of opinion in order to establish attainable objectives, and we will establish a government which will put the will of the nation above the stands of its differing currents, a government of the people, which will be sensitive to their wishes, a government that will represent, according to the words of David Ben-Gurion, both the power and the justice of Israel. Thank you again, Mr President.

Holds News Conference

TA051107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1038 GMT 5 Aug 84

[News conference with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres following acceptance speech at the presidential residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Text][Voice of Israel correspondent Yosi Qoren] Shim'on Peres, you are being heard live on radio now. Have you already called Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Peres] Yes, I have called Mr Shamir. I told him that the president has just now entrusted me with the task of forming the next government and I invited him to meet with me so that we can try to do what we both agree is the will of the people, and also to discuss what the president said, namely, establishing a national unity government. Mr Shamir told me that he would lend a hand in establishing such a government. I asked him whether he would like to meet only me or to have a meeting between two delegations in our first session, and he said that he would think about it and give me his answer.

[Qoren] What happens now, technically speaking?

[Peres] Technically speaking, I am now going to start working and planning the necessary negotiations in order to establish a government soon.

[Qoren] Are you talking about a broadly-based government, a much broader government or a narrowly-based government?

[Peres] I am certainly talking about the broadest possible government, a government of national unity. I also promised to call Mr 'Ezer Weizman. I have also invited him to meetings and this afternoon I will probably get in touch with other factions.

[Qoren] Will you call anybody from the religious parties?

[Peres] I think a meeting has already been set with one of the religious parties, but we will announce this when the time comes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Peres, do you intend to intitally try and set up a narrow government and only later try to expand it?

[Peres] I intend to think first and then act. Thank you very much.

Shamir Reacts to Decision

TA051151 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1147 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Here is the first reaction by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the president's decision to entrust Shim'on Peres with the task of forming the government. Shamir said: This decision was to be expected but it does not essentially change the situation. Even after the president's decision, the Likud believes it will be able to form either a narrowly-based or a unity government. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav notes that the Likud ministers are still holding talks at the prime minister's office.

Willing To Continue Talks

TA051432 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1349 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent a letter this afternoon to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, stating that he accepts Peres' call to continue the talks with the Alignment on the establishment of a national unity government. In his letter, Shamir did not refer to the question of who will head the national unity government.

The session held by the Alignment negotiating team ended a few minutes ago. Decisions were made during this session concerning the distribution of tasks in the contacts which will be held in the next few days.

Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that Moshe Shahal together with Roni Milo will handle the matter of choosing a Knesset Speaker. Rafi Edri will conduct the contacts with the factions led by Weizman, Horowitz and Abu-Hatzira.

The Labor Party leadership, headed by Shim'on Peres, will engage in talks with the National Religious Party [NRP]. The first meeting between the NRP and the Alignment will take place tomorrow.

Shamir, Peres To Meet

TA051625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Candidate for premiership Shim'on Peres will meet Yitzhaq Shamir tomorrow afternoon for a discussion. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Golan. The Labor Party chairman says that a national unity government under his leadership will be compiled according to the ratio of powers of the factions which will compose it.

In a letter to Yitzhaq Shamir, Peres expressed the hope that the process of forming the government will be as brief as possible, particularly considering the absolute necessity of stabilizing the economy. In his opinion, the clarification talks between the Alignment and the Likud formed a basis for a serious dialogue.

Knesset Procedural Committee Established

TA051752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The heads of the Alignment and Likud Knesset factions have decided to set up a regulating [mesaderet] committee which will determine work procedures for the new Knesset. Provisional foreign affairs and defense committees as well as finance committees will be set up.

The composition of the regulating committee itself has not yet been determined, nor has it been decided whether the speaker of the House will be chosen during the first Knesset session [slated for 13 August]. The Alignment wants the election of the Knesset speaker postponed.

Parties Continue Coalition, Government Contacts

Likud, NRP Set up Joint Team

TA051131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1121 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] and the Likud have set up a joint team to coordinate positions in the negotiations with the Alignment over the establishment of a national unity government. Our correspondent Hayim Zissovitz reports that in the meeting held in Shamir's office, the Likud officials expressed their desire to issue a joint communique stating that both parties are seeking the establishment of a national unity government headed by Shamir. The NRP officials refused, however, and said that they consider the question of who would head the government secondary.

The NRP representatives emphasized that they would in any event strive to establish a national unity government and would not join any narrowly-based government, whether it is headed by the Likud or the Alignment.

MAPAM Leader for Narrow Rule

TA051749 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1645 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 5 Aug (ITIM) — MAPAM Secretary Victor Shem-Tov today extended his warm congratulations to Shim'on Peres, the Alignment's candidate for premiership. In his congratulations Shem-Tov stated: "I extend to you my good wishes upon your receiving the difficult task of forming a stable government which Israel so desperately needs at this time. The problems on our national agenda leave no room for a situation where a caretaker government could rule the country for an extended period.

The national interest requires that we transcend narrow political considerations, form a narrow-based government, and present it to the Knesset. It will be later possible to continue the efforts of broadening the parliamentary base of such a government."

Shem-Tov wished Shim'on Peres success with his assignment.

Bar-Lev on Likud Position

TA060545 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Labor Party Secretary General Hayim Bar-Lev says that if the Likud insists on its demand to discuss who will head the next government, then there will be no more room for further discussion. As of yesterday, when the president assigned Shim'on Peres the task of forming the government, the situation had changed. The talks right now are not bilateral negotiations, but they indicate that the prime minister-designate is inviting the Likud for a meeting. Bar-Lev expressed amazement that the Likud leaders are contesting the president's decision. He also said that at this point the Alignment has no problems regarding a national unity government insofar as Shinuy, the Citizens Rights Movement, or MAPAM are concerned.

Agudat Yisra'el May Join Peres

TA060552 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 84 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpt] Agudat Yisra'el indicated last night that it might be the first party to break out of the political-arithmetical holding pattern that has prevailed since the election.

Agudat MK Menahem Porush said last night that if his two-seat party concludes that Yitzhaq Shamir has no prospect of forming a government, it will swing its support behind Shim'on Peres provided the religious terms are right.

Porush said (Yahad leader) 'Ezer Weizman's firm resolve not to join a government with Tehiya seems indeed to mean that Shamir has no chance of forming a Likud-led narrow-based government. "His situation is very serious," Porush said.

Porush told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that if Agudat aligns itself with Labour, the National Religious Party will follow suit. He said he has an "accord" to this effect with "top people" in the NRP.

Likud Continuing Coalition Bid

TA060830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Roni Milo has said that the Likud will continue to try to form a government, and expressed his opinion that this is not a challenge to the president's decision. Milo claims that the Alignment has misled the president, as niehter MAPAM nor MK Sarid fully support all the Alignment's moves.

MK Milo also said that if the president had waited before making his decision, his decision might have been different.

NRP Willing To Join Alignment

TA061116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] is willing in principle to join a national unity government headed by the Alignment. This was reported after a more than 3 hour meeting between NRP and Alignment leaders, in which MAPAM representatives also participated. The two sides agreed to maintain the status quo in religious matters but decided to leave the issue of settlements for further negotiations.

The negotiations to consolidate common stands will be opened in two days and will be conducted by four working teams. In 2 hours Shim'on Peres will meet Yitzhaq Shamir.

Coalition Economy Plan Viewed

TA040857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Following the Alignment-Likud talks on the economic situation, Alignment Knesset Member Gad Ya'aqobi said he believes that the two parties can jointly consolidate a program for restoring economic health. He told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that he is referring to a plan which has been agreed to for a certain period of time. In the opinion of the head of the Alignment's economic team, there is no alternative but a national unity government.

Rabin on Government Agenda

TA040902 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin supports the formation of a national unity government because, in his opinion, the parties should respect the will and verdict of the voters. According to Rabin, new elections would not lead to a significant change in the political balance. He is proposing that a national unity government deal with a number of issues: restoring economic health and promoting social affairs, ending military involvement in Lebanon while guaranteeing the safety of residents of northern Israel, promoting the peace process with Egypt, and opening a dialogue with Jordan after the U.S. elections.

As for the achievements of the religious parties under the Likud's administration, Rabin said that a national unity government would not change the status quo on religious affairs. He nevertheless noted that if such a government is established, the large parties would not have to meet additional demands by the religious sector. Yitzhaq Rabin talked with our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

Zaq Views Problems in National Unity Talks

TA031425 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 84 p 25

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "The King David Talks"]

[Text] It is sheer coincidence but still very symbolic. The talks between the Alignment and the Likud about the establishment of a national unity government opened this week in the same place where the unity of a warring nation ended 38 years ago: The King David Hotel in Jerusalem, as it was called during the British mandate. There were attempts this week — 38 years later — to consolidate the unity of a worrying nation in the same hotel where unity came to a halt.

Almost all the people sitting around the table this week were not party to the unity that prevailed among the various underground groups in their struggle for Jewish independence or to the split in the wake of the explosion of the King David Hotel; most of them were not bound by the arguments of the remote past. This week as well as then, however, the purpose of the negotiators was to secure the independence of the Jewish state. In the pre-state days, the enemy was the foreign ruler who barred Jewish survivors of the Holocaust from entering their motherland. The consequence of this was that various groups supporting different methods of struggle were united into one warring nation.

The threat hovering over the pre-state Jewish population's vision of independence closed the ranks and united the people. In the course of one generation we repelled all the military threats against our independence, which is now being jeopardized by an economic threat.

This is the context in which the talks at the King David Hotel must be seen. Many obstacles lie on the way of these talks. They must travel a dangerous road at a time when the small parties — albeit raving about national unity — realize that the unity of both camps would reduce their bargaining power. Perhaps this is why some of them opted for undermining the dialogue between the Alignment and the Likud by advocating that the president entrust a particular person with the task of establishing a national unity government. Thus, they are urging the president to decide on a candidate before the road has been cleared. Had an understanding been initially reached about the partnership and its substance at the King David Hotel talks, it would have been easier to agree on the question of who should head it. The moment the president entrusts any candidate with the task of forming the government, the dynamics of the negotiations will change. These dynamics could lead to protracted bargaining rather than to mere unity or a minority government which would not ease public tension.

This week, the same day that Ya'aqov Hazan [elderly MAPAM figure] reiterated his objection in principle to any notion of a national unity government, MAPAM's mouthpiece *'AL HAMISHMAR* printed a table of comparison composed by a group of intellectuals from Jerusalem which concluded that an Alignment-Likud government was better than a narrowly-based government headed by either the Alignment or the Likud.

The intellectuals from Jerusalem throughly examined the advantages and disadvantages of each of these governments. The terms used in the table show that this group of intellectuals holds views to the left of the Labor Party. Nevertheless, it arrived at the conclusion that the best government under the given circumstances is an Alignment-Likud government for a definite period of time.

Presumably, the MAPAM organ would not have highlighted this table of comparison had the MAPAM members not been bothered by the question of a unity government, and had controversy not emerged from the ranks about the attitude to such a government.

Ya'aqov Hazan, who was one of the founders of the Alignment and one of those who fiercely fought off suggestions to dissolve it this week, threatened that he would propose the dissolution of the Alignment if the Labor Party goes into a partnership with the Likud. Hazan is adamant on this position even though the table of comparison of the intellectuals stated that only an Alignment-Likud government, with the cooperation of the Histadrut, would be able to take firm measures to heal the economy while minimizing mass unemployment, whereas they predicted economic difficulties for the other governments. Even regarding an arrangement in Lebanon, the intellectuals favor a unity government which would be able to secure "a pullout from Lebanon following Rabin's lines while sharing responsibility for the consequences to northern Israel and the entire country, whereas a pullout by an Alignment government would make the Alignment solely responsible for the Katyushas and any mishap in the north, and any explosion anywhere in Israel would take on the dimensions of a national blunder."

Even regarding the peace process, the *'AL HAMISHMAR* table shows a slight preference for a national unity government because the latter entails a possible continuation of the peace process based on the Camp David accords, whereas in the case of an Alignment government, "it is doubtful that Husayn and others would talk with such a narrowly-based government."

Yesterday and the day before, when Shim'on Peres sat opposite Yitzhaq Shamir and they shook hands and exchanged smiles, the former did not know what MAPAM's decision would be. He was probably worried by the seat left vacant around the negotiating table by Victor Shem-Tov. Shim'on Peres is taking pains not to split the Alignment, not only because the Alignment's unity avails him with a quantitative edge over the Likud and makes it the largest faction in the Knesset, but also because he fears the implications such a split would have on the Histadrut, the workers, and the unity of the Labor Party.

This is why the Labor party chose to portray the unity talks to MAPAM as a mere tactical move that is liable to embarrass the Likud. MAPAM agreed not to undermine the talks between the leaders of the Likud and the Alignment from the outset because it believed its silence would secure Peres the job of forming the government and drive the Likud into a position where it would be forced to say "no" to a national unity government, thus losing the sympathy it acquired among vast sections of the population thanks to its initiative to hold unity talks.

Unlike Ya'aqov Hazan who frankly believes that "ideological justice must be pursued at whatever tactical cost," his younger colleagues allow themselves tactical maneuvering room becuase they believe that the unity government will ultimately not come into being and in the meantime Shim'on Peres will be assigned by the president to do the job.

Peres could begin talks on the establishment of a broadly-based government and end with an agreement on a narrowly-based, and perhaps even very narrowly-based government.

This is what MAPAM is striving at although it has been concealing its opposition to a national unity government. Were it to voice its threat to split from the Alignment today, it would guarantee the election of Yitzhaq Shamir to head the formation of a national unity government.

These are not the only forces working against the establishment of a national unity government.

In fact, opposition has been mounting even among the small parties which have been raving about national unity and this might foil the efforts of the two large camps.

'Ezer Weizman's successful efforts to defuse the support of the National Religious Party and Agudat Yisra'el for Yitzhaq Shamir as a possible candidate to form the government were made under the banner of national unity. Nevertheless, his moves accelerated the president's decision in favor of the candidate who had more supporters. The result was that instead of having the question of who should head the national unity as one of the items on the agenda to be decided in negotiations between the two largest blocs, the president is going to omit an integral part of the negotiations (the premiership, in exchange for which the other side must sacrifice some fundamental issue) and cut one of the legs of the negotiating table on national unity.

Although it was certainly not Yahad's avowed purpose to work against a national unity government, Agudat Yisra'el did not conceal its lack of confidence in such a government. Through his maneuver, 'Ezer Weizman actually laid the foundation for the option of a narrowly-based government composed of the National Religious Party and Agudat Yisra'el and headed by Peres.

This is also the background for the arithmetic that included the six Knesset Members of HADASH and the Progressive List for Peace among those who prefer one of the two candidates, although they are supposed to establish a national unity government which they object to. The arithmetic is simple and is likely to pile up obstacles on the road to consolidating a national unity government.

For a long time we made light of the Lebanese who have suffered through a prolonged civil war and who discussed at length the need to establish a national unity government. As the deliberations continued, violent clashes between the rival militia became more frequent.

The Lebanese were wise enough to watch over their pound, to increase their foreign reserves, and even to secure the blossoming of their economy amid the bloody fighting. However, as soon as the civil war started to threaten their economic basis, the Maronites, Shi'ites, Sunnis, and Druze converged into one government and even began to remove the barriers separating divided Beirut. Differences among the Lebanese factions are abysmal but when the moment of truth came the sectarian parties overcame the feelings of vengeance seething in the Lebanese society and set up a national unity government despite the fact that Syria was looming in the background. Their wish to survive turned out to be stronger than any desire for revenge or past disputes.

While we took pity on and even secretly mocked the Lebanese for being unable to close ranks in the face of the threat that their country might disintegrate, many of us do not stop and think about our image outside Israel or about the way our coalition negotiations are perceived by our neighbors and our friends overseas when they see that despite the dangers to our very existence, the leaders of Israeli society continue to argue about the past as if Israel was not plagued by a serious economic crisis which warrants emergency measures.

Not only do the intellectuals from Jerusalem and the four writers who published a manifesto in favor of a unity government believe that without it, it would be impossible to adopt emergency measures to heal the economy, but everybody realizes this fundamental fact. However, there are those who confront this central economic issue with political and security questions. There are those who argue that in order to promote the so-called "peace process", the Alignment cannot tie its own hands in a coalition with the Likud. In other words, a partnership with the Likud would preclude the acceptance of the Reagan plan or changes in the autonomy plan in order to appease the Egyptians.

This prejudiced view will have to be reassessed in view of the growing belief in Washington that the resumption of the "peace process" depends on a stable Israeli government. Despite the wish of U.S. officials to soften Israel's positions about autonomy and relations with Husayn, Washington realizes that a narrowly-based government in Jerusalem means a weak and unstable government which would have a hard time coping with the opposition. This is why the U.S. Administration would not encourage new political initiatives unless a broadly-based government is set up in Jerusalem.

It is probable that the prime minister also sees such a risk in a unity government. He does not see it as an immediate danger but one that would come in April or May of next year after U.S. policy in this area has been reassessed and after the leaders of the countries in this region have made their customary visits to Washington.

This is why Yitzhaq Shamir wants to adopt all the necessary measures to prevent a government crisis next spring. This is probably the background against which one should see his firm opposition to any declaration about a freeze on settlement. Any declaration entails political implications which the Herut leaders cannot tolerate. Shamir does not want to be in a situation where, even before the national unity government has completed its term, the Herut ministers are forced to quit either with or without all the Liberals in the government. In any case, Tehiya is warning Herut against such a development.

This is the reason why the clarification talks between the Alignment and the Likud about the fundamental questions of foreign policy, security and economy were discussed before the personal question of who will head the unity government. This question was not discussed in the talks at the King David Hotel, although some tried to slip it into them through the presidential residence.

The president now holds the key to the success of the clarification talks or to their entanglement, that key being his decision on the personal question. As the man who took the welcomed initiative of bringing people together for the sake of establishing a national unity government — an initiative which received the blessing of the majority of the nation — the president should allow the fundamental discussions to proceed in their current channel for a few more days rather than unintentionally pulling in the reins by means of a decision on the personal question.

This decision should not be postponed for long. The president must proceed according to what is stipulated by law. However, as the man who took the blessed initiative about unity, the president must let it run its course because this is the best hope we have.

Cabinet Reviews Political Developments 5 Aug

TA050914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] At this morning's Cabinet session, the prime minister reviewed political developments in our area. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the ministers also heard details of the talks with the United States concerning the preparations for laying the oil pipeline from Iraq to Aqaba. The Industry and Commerce minister reported on the negotiations between the United States and Israel for the establishment of a free trade zone. The prime minister told the ministers that there is a deterioration in the health of prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, and called on all governments of the world and international organizations to act in order to secure his release.

Shamir Rejects USSR Initiative

TA051134 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The Cabinet held its usual weekly meeting in Jerusalem this morning, devoting most of its discussion to foreign affairs but including also strong appeals to international bodies to do something for prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, who is ailing in a Soviet prison. From the prime minister's office, Jack Katzenell:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported an improvement in the international relations of Israel and disclosed that there will be a series of visits of heads of state and governments in the near future to Israel, but no details are available yet. The prime minister rejected the latest proposals of the Soviet Union on the Middle East. The Soviet Union cannot be a party to negotiations, the prime minister said, since it does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. The conflict must be resolved by direct talks between Israel and the Arabs, Shamir said.

The prime minister reviewed current developments in the Middle East and said Israel is closely following the issue of the proposed pipeline from Iraq to Aqaba, and its ecological implications for Elat. Shamir reported a deterioration in the situation of Yosef Begun, a Jewish activist serving a sentence in a Soviet jail, and called on governments throughout the world to intercede on Begun's behalf. The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Gid'on Pat, reported on the progress of the talks on a free trade agreement with the United States, and expressed the belief that the agreement would be approved by Congress before the visit of the U.S. negotiator William Brock, on September 19, to Israel. [end recording]

Wilner Urges Considering Bid

TA031350 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] RAKAH Secretary General Me'ir Wilner has called upon the Alignment leaders to discuss the Soviet proposal to convene an international Middle East peace conference. Speaking at a RAKAH Politburo meeting, Wilner said that the Soviet proposal proves that Moscow truly and honestly wants a just peace for the people of the region, and that it would therefore be a tragic mistake to reject the proposal. The United States has already rejected it.

Gid'on Pat on Free Trade Zone Agreement

TA060554 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Aug 84 p 2

[Aharon Sittner report]

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Gid'on Pat insists that the free trade zone agreement with the United States will be "wrapped up" by the middle of next month, readied for Congressional approval and finally, for implementation next year.

Giving his fellow ministers a progress report on the negotiations, Pat said that almost all of the hurdles have been overcome, except for "certain technicalities."

These include details of Israel's phasing out subsidies to exporters, elimination of non-tariff barriers, import licensing and preparation of a timetable for tariff elimination — i.e., which goods should enjoy immediate "zero tariff" treatment, which should have their tariffs gradually eliminated between 1985 and 1989, and which should be given extended tariff protection beyond 1989.

Another point to be cleared up with the American negotiating team expected here tomorrow for the ninth round of talks is the question of so-called "infant industries."

These are new enterprises which may require extra protection from full and swift exposure to competition arising from implementation of the free trade zone agreement.

FBI Investigates Document Leak

TA031812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The FBI is conducting an investigation to uncover who leaked to the Jewish lobby a secret U.S. Administration document on the establishment of a free trade zone with Israel. In answer to our correspondent Elimelekh Ram's question, a representative of the Jewish lobby confirmed that the document had actually reached it, but he claimed that this did not constitute a violation of the law.

Administration officials have said that the information included in the document could help Israel in the negotiations on the establishment of the free trade zone. It includes a report on reservations about the matter expressed by some pressure groups, including a demand by the farmers not to include agricultural produce in the free trade zone agreement.

Aqaba Pipeline, Tabah Issues Cause Controversy

Egyptian Bitterness Noted

TA051152 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Aug 84 p 1

[Report on interview with Egyptian Consul in Elat Hasan 'Isa by correspondent in Elat Eytan Rabin on 4 August; place not given]

[Excerpts] Egypt is becoming increasingly bitter about Israel's conduct in Tabah. This bitterness peaked after Israel failed to inform the Egyptians that it had found a body, believed to be that of Miri Herzog [Israeli girl who disappeared in the Sinai some time ago].

In an interview with *HA'ARETZ*, Egyptian Consul Hasan 'Isa also mentioned the activities of Israeli yachts in the area and the incident in which he and his son were harassed at the border crossing at Tabah last week.

The consul also expressed his amazement at the Israeli demand that the body be removed from Egyptian territory without allowing the Egyptian authorities to look into the matter. According to him, if a crime were committed on Egyptian territory it would be the duty of the Egyptian authorities to investigate the case and submit the findings to Israel. He added that if it emerged that the body was definitely that of Miri Herzog it would be transferred to Israel.

Referring to Tabah, the consul said that Israeli-Egyptian relations there are very tense in the wake of the recurrent incidents with yacht owners. He recounted an incident which took place a few weeks ago: An Egyptian officer climbed aboard to check its permits. While the officer was still on board, the Israeli captain started the engine and began sailing toward Elat. The Egyptian officer had to jump from the yacht into a Zodiac boat and cut the rope which attached it to the yacht. He was thus left behind in the middle of the sea.

According to 'Isa, the incident was misreported by the Israeli press which noted that the Zodiac boat had been expropriated but failed to mention the preceding humiliation and the circumstances under which the Egyptians did this. "I can tell you," the consul added, "that the officer ordered the Egyptian Coast Guard, in the event that they spotted the yacht, to bring its captain to him even if they are forced to open fire."

If Israel took care of this and other infractions, the Egyptian authorities in the Sinai would not be forced to cope alone, Hasan 'Isa said. There is no doubt that better relations can be established, he added.

The consul went on to say that in a meeting with the mayor of Elat this morning he would ask him to speak to the yacht owners and those people who are connected to Tabah about relations with Egypt.

In response to the remarks of the Egyptian consul in Elat, Israeli sources said: No comment.

Officials Dispute 'Isa View

TA052040 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1955 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Elat, 5 Aug (ITIM) — "The current relations between us and the Egyptians in Tabah are no different from our relations in the past; they are the same. There is a dialogue and I do not notice any tension among the Egyptians — neither in Cairo nor in Tabah." These remarks were made this evening by Brigadier General Dov Si'on, the chairman of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee, in reaction to a report issued today stating that a great deal of tension prevails in Israeli-Egyptian relations over the Tabah issue.

Brig Gen Si'on said the Egyptians are making efforts to investigate the affair of the disappearance of 18-year-old Miri Herzog of Gedera, and will investigate the circumstances of the murder in the event that the body discovered in the An-Nuwaybi' sands is indeed that of Miri.

"We did not withhold or conceal information from the Egyptians on this issue. On the contrary, the moment we knew that a body was found in An-Nuwaybi' we brought this to the immediate attention of the Egyptian authorities. We did not withhold information for even a single hour," he said.

An authoritative element who has ties with the Egyptians in Tabah told the ITIM correspondent that no tension prevails in the relations between the Egyptians and the Israelis; relations are fair, a dialogue exists, and many tourists cross from one side to the other without any problems.

In the opinion of this person, it is regrettable that Hasan 'Isa, the Egyptian consul in Elat who is well-liked in this city, levelled criticism at the relations prevailing in Tabah — relations which are definitely proper and fair.

It was impossible to obtain Hasan 'Isa's reaction this evening.

Urges EPA Intervention

TA051115 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Aug 84 p 4

['Oded Granot report from Washington]

[Text] Israel is urging the United States to have the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intervene in the dispute with Jordan over the ecological dangers inherent in the operation of the Jordanian sewage treatment plant in Aqaba.

The Americans, however, argue that the agency is not authorized to examine ecological cases outside the United States. The U.S. Administration also contends that the Agency for International Development, which financed a significant part of the construction cost of the plants conducted its own tests, and they showed that no ecological danger would be posed to the Gulf of Elat.

AID officials last night told *MA'ARIV* that they were surprised at the fuss Israel has been making over the Jordanian sewage treatment plant, which is nearly complete. The officials added that the Jordanians were no less concerned about the sewage treatment plant in Elat.

The dispute began in the wake of the contacts Israel has been holding with the United States over the pipeline the Iraqis plan to lay to the Port of Aqaba. The U.S. Administration gave U.S. investors the "green light" to finance part of the work related to the Iraqi pipeline. Washington believes that this project will help strengthen its relations with Iraq. In principle, Israel does not object to the pipeline but it is demanding guarantees against ecological damages.

MK Urges Destroying Facilities

TA060635 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Likud Knesset Member Beni Shalita has sent a cable to the prime minister, suggesting that Israel destroy the installations American companies are expected to build in Aqaba, Jordan unless these building projects are coordinated with Israel. Shalita says that such installations will have extremely negative ecological effects on Elat, so Israel must announce that unless the construction of the installations is coordinated with it, it will destroy them. Shalita means, among other things, the oil pipeline an American company will lay from Iraq to Aqaba.

Efforts To Settle Issue Viewed

TA060834 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 84 p 1

[Yosi Melman report]

[Text] Washington is trying to bring about a four-way arrangement between itself, Israel, Jordan, and Iraq in order to solve the problems surrounding the laying of the oil pipeline from Iraq to the Gulf of Aqaba.

The *DAVAR* correspondent has learned from a well-placed source that U.S. Administration officials are holding concurrent talks with representatives of the three countries on this issue. They are pressuring Israel to guarantee that under no conditions will it attack the pipeline which is scheduled to be laid by the U.S. company Bechtel. In return, Israel will get guarantees from Jordan and Iraq that they will do all they can to prevent pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Eli Rubinstein, and the Interior Ministry Director General Hayim Kubersky are currently in the United States, where they are holding talks with U.S. officials on ways to prevent ecological damages which could result from the pipeline. The Iraqis refuse to sign the deal with the U.S. company as long as they do not receive unequivocal guarantees that Israel will not attack the pipeline, and they are threatening to lay an alternative pipeline to Turkey or Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi pipeline is meant to serve as a strategic substitute to the old pipeline which ran across Syria and which was damaged as a result of the war in the Persian Gulf. In yesterday's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reviewed the latest developments surrounding the issue of the Iraqi pipeline, and he said that the United States is showing great understanding of Israel's fear of water pollution.

Return of Egyptian Envoy Urged

TA050715 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Disservice to Peace"]

[Text] Cairo has wisely refrained from making controversial statements about its cold peace with Israel during the long weeks of Israel's election campaign. It held correctly that such statements might be interpreted as an attempt to interfere with Israel's democratic process, thus rendering them counterproductive.

It is disconcerting that the restraint and wisdom of Egypt's rulers did not stand them in good stead also after the elections.

President Husni Mubarak's statement last week, upping the ante regarding Cairo's conditions under which an Egyptian ambassador would return to Tel Aviv, is a case in point. These conditions no longer speak of a detailed time-table for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, which Cairo had demanded previously, but now demand completion of Israel's withdrawal as a prior condition.

Moreover, the Egyptian president has now included demands that Israel make progress on the Palestinian problem, whatever this may mean, and move towards a solution of the Tabah border dispute.

It is precisely in the interest of making progress over these issues that the presence in Israel of an Egyptian envoy at ambassadorial level is sorely needed.

As to Israel's readiness to withdraw its troops from Lebanon under appropriate security arrangements that would safeguard its northern border, it is an open secret that this is one issue over which there is very little disagreement between Likud and Labour policymakers. If anything, an additional withdrawal in southern Lebanon by the present government was held up because of the elections, lest it be interpreted as further proof of the future of Israel's so-called "Operation Peace for Galilee."

Cairo should have remembered that its attitude was far less rigid in the past and that the 30th anniversary of its officers revolution — Egypt's national day — was celebrated in Israel with a lavish reception on July 23 two years ago by its first ambassador, Sa'd Murtada, when the war in Lebanon was in its seventh week.

Another disturbing case in point is Cairo's recent decision to call for an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the Soviet Union, as stated by the Egyptian charge d'affaires Muhammad Basyuni in an interview with this newspaper on the eve of the elections two weeks ago. It was perhaps no coincidence that Moscow came out with a similar idea exactly one week later.

President Mubarak would have done well to recall that it was precisely a renewed Soviet attempt to revive such a Geneva-type conference, as expressed in the joint U.S.- Soviet communique of October 1977, which prompted his predecessor, the late President as-Sadat, to embark on his own direct peace initiative with Israel.

Although it may take nearly two months, if not more, until a new coalition government is formed, Cairo would have done well to hold its verbal fire until the identity of Israel's new government becomes known.

As matters stand now, chances are that Israel may yet have a broad Labour-Likud coalition, or possibly a narrow, Labour-led coalition government. In either case, some of the more nationalist features of Israel's policy, such as stepped-up settlement in the West Bank, which were detrimental to the peace process will have to be held in abeyance. That would apply even in the event that drawn-out coalition talks end up in a narrow Likud-led coalition government, since this would not be possible without the three Knesset seats of former Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman, a consistent champion of the peace with Egypt.

Egypt ought to realize that, at least, half of Israel's electorate has voted for the peace option two weeks ago and that the kind of statements which again emanate from Cairo only serve to encourage extremist trends on both sides of the border and are a disservice to peace.

Arabic Broadcast on Recent Explosion in Amman

JN051810 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1430 GMT 5 Aug 84

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The Jordanian security organs are investigating the explosion that took place near the U.S. Embassy in Amman last week. More details in the following report: There is no doubt that the explosion, which occurred under an old truck near the U.S. Embassy in Amman last Friday, disturbed the Jordanian authorities, who shrouded the incident with secrecy. If AFP had not received information about the explosions and broadcast the news all over the world, the Jordanian Interior Ministry would have never issued a brief statement 30 hours after the incident occurred. The statement did not disclose that two passersby were slightly wounded.

The explosion that occurred in Amman last week is one of a series of explosions against Western interests and establishments in the past months. An explosive charge went off near the U.S. Embassy on the eve of Queen Elizabeth's arrival in Jordan in April. Bombs were also thrown at a public security camp in Amman in October 1983. Several weeks after this incident, two booby- trapped cars were discovered in the embassy area in Amman. Another explosive charge was also discovered near the Saudi airlines office in the Jordanian capital. At the beginning of this year, explosive charges were also discovered near U.S. institutions in Amman.

Despite the fact that no organization has claimed responsibility for last week's incident, it is noteworthy that Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] group announced in a statement it sent to AFP in Damascus last July that one of its priorities is to take action against the Amman regime, which it described as treacherous and a protector of imperialist interests in the Middle East. If Abu Nidal's group is not responsible for the Amman incident, we do not rule out that the Fatah dissidents might have played a role in the incident. This is because these dissidents, who were moved to the city of Dar'a on the Syrian-Jordanian border, are interested in harming King Husayn's regime in order to foil any rapprochement effort between the regime and Yasir 'Arafat.

Regardless of whether Abu Nidal's group or the Fatah dissidents were involved in the incident, it is certain that this operation was carried out with Syria's encouragement. Despite the fact that Syria is attempting to come closer to Jordan, it wants to prove to King Husayn that it has the final say in the region.

Defense Ministry Director on U.S. Aid

TA050542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Menahem Meron, the Defense Ministry director general, says that in spite of the criticism in the United States about the way Israel runs its economy, he does not expect U.S. aid to stop, and he does not feel that there is an attempt to limit Israel and dictate its moves. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal spoke with the Defense Ministry director general:

[Tal — live] The Defense Ministry director general believes that there is no danger in the foreseeable future that the Americans will change their policy regarding the aid. This aid is in the U.S. interest, and in his opinion the money given is more of an investment than aid.

The Defense Ministry director general says that Israel purchases many items in the United States, and at least concerning the Lavi, we have received all we asked for lately. As to making the system more efficient, the Defense Ministry, like any other ministry, will abide by the decision to freeze contracts. There are no agreements so far on this matter, but the ramifications of freezing contracts in the defense establishment are being examined. He believes that a real cut in the defense budget over and beyond what has already been done is not possible.

[Begin Meron recording] In my opinion, we have already reached the stage where saving in a meaningful way, in great quantities, can only be done by changing formations and cutting down the size of the Army.

There is no room here to talk about becoming more efficient or cutting away the fat. The only way to reduce meaningfully is by cutting the size of the Army, or decreasing its activity. [end recording]

[Tal] Meron says that we have an Army of a certain size; perhaps we will have to change it, at least regarding its regular activity. Such decisions are made at other levels. However, in his opinion this should not be done.

[Begin Meron recording] I think that this is not desirable. The security missions imposed on the people of Israel will not change.

Perhaps temporary things can be done, but in the longer run I think that Israel's basic security missions will not change. [end recording]

Kohen-Orgad Says Budget Will Affect Settlements

TA031740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad says the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be hard-hit by the strict financial limitations which will be in effect over the next few years, just like in all other realms of economic activity. Kohen-Orgad was interviewed by the Voice of Israel's Hebrew newsreel today. He refused to give details about the cutbacks, saying that this could be an issue for discussion between theLikud and the Alignment in their talks about the formation of a national unity government. He said a compromise could be reached between the desire for a speedy development of the territories, and the desire to suspend all activities in those areas.

Kohen-Orgad also spoke about the decision to freeze all government contracts. He said it was a unilateral move by the government, taken because the Histadrut was assuming a great responsibility by refusing to negotiate with the government, but he added that the cutback on government subsidies and the freeze on contracts would ultimately force the Histadrut to the negotiating table.

LIBYA

Further on Arab-African Cooperation Committee

At-Turayki Addresses Committee

LD031459 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The Permanent Committee of Arab-African Cooperation continued the work of its seventh session this morning under the chairmanship of Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau and head of the Arab delegation in the committee, to study the topics on the agenda.

At the beginning of the session the brother secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau spoke. He stressed the importance of Arab-African cooperation, pointing out that this cooperation is a strategic action and not a passing or a temporary action.

He explained that the Arab homeland and Africa represent a single geographical, historical, and political region.

He said that in the Jamahiriyah, while we are a part of the Arab homeland and the African Continent, we are anxious to support such cooperation for the economic and political benefits it achieves in the interest of the Arabs and Africa.

The secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, pointed to the historic and cultural link between the Arab nation and the African Continent, stressing the need for serious and continuous work for Arab-African cooperation.

Then the Permanent Committee of the Arab-African Committee approved its agenda, which consists of 13 causes on Arab-African cooperation in all spheres and on strengthening cultural, economic and political ties.

The Drafting Committee has also been formed. It will undertake the task of drafting the resolutions and the recommendations. It includes on the Arab side: Mauritania and Syria, and on the African side: Tunisia and Upper Volta.

The report of the Coordination Committee between the Secretariat General of the Arab League and the OAU was also discussed; as was the joint report of the two secretariats on implementation of the previous resolutions and recommendations on Arab-African cooperation. The committee will continue its work this evening.

At its meeting this morning the Permanent Committee of the Arab-African Committee unanimously decided to consider the speech of the brother leader of the revolution at the opening session yesterday as one of the committee's official documents in appreciation of the valuable ideas and the revolutionary concern of the brother leader on the need to support Arab-Africn cooperation and to promote it for the sake of joint Arab-African interest.

Chadli Klibi Addresses Meeting

LD032059 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 6, August 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary general of the Arab League, Chadli Klibi, has confirmed the significance of the meetings of the Arab-African Cooperation Permanent Committee. In a speech before the morning session of the 7th meeting for Arab-African cooperation currently held in Tripoli, Klibi said: "The holding of the meetings of the Arab-African Cooperation Permanent Committee is a significant event in the process of Arab and a African countries' unity and solidarity."

The secretary general of the Arab League also hailed the Jamahiriyah's hosting of the session by saying, "I would like to thank the Jamahiriyah for hosting the 7th session of this central organisation and extending facilities to lead this Arab-African dialogue towards success, a dialogue that is taking place during highly complicated circumstances for the Arab and African countries."

Chadli Klibi expressed his gratitude for the support extended by Al Fatih Great Revolution and for the leader of the revolution's attention towards the joint action "whether it be Arab-African or purely Arab." He said, "the initiative taken recently by the leader of the revolution of inviting the Arab states to strengthen their solidarity, to develop new forms for joint action and to take steps against Zionist attacks is an expression of deep national feelings, inflamed by what is facing our nation's rights and sovereignty particularly the regular provocations against the Jamahiriyah, highlighted by the U.S. Air Force's violation to her space and territorial waters."

The secretary general of the Arab League stressed the importance of Arab-African cooperation by saying that "it [word indistinct] out of institutional reasons that the Arab League is holding this session, it is because we are strongly committed to carrying on this process until it achieves all its mutual goals." In this respect, Klibi praised the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity, Dr Peter Onu, for his support and enthusiasm to develop the Arab-African cooperation.

The Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi strongly denounced racist-Zionist-expansionist measures and policies and the unlimited support given to them by West European countries and America. He said, "the U.S. is giving unlimited financial, economic, military and technological aid without respect to the U.N.'s charter stipulating that pressures should be exercised on Zionism."

He then added, "the absence of such pressures have in fact helped the Zionist entity to dominate the occupied Arab lands and to distort the Arab character of occupied Jerusalem."

Klibi strongly praised the abrogation of the shameful treaty between Lebanon and the Zionist entity by saying, "the greatest achievement in Lebanon since its invasion by Zionist forces is the abrogation of the treaty that was imposed on Lebanon."

In this respect, he praised the struggle of the Lebanese people and its progressive national forces whose objective is to force the

Zionist enemy to withdraw its forces from the occupied south Lebanon.

The secretary general of the Arab League then expressed his concern over conspiracies and difficulties being designed against Africa by external parties aimed against its unity and integration. He drew attention to the racist attacks of the South African regime against the people of the southern part of the continent. In this respect, he denounced these measures and the assistance given by Western countries to the racist regime and their collaboration with it. He drew special attention to the point that the apartheid regime in South Africa is still refusing to accept the independence of the people of Namibia.

The secretary general of the Arab League also reaffirmed the Arab countries' support for the struggle of the peoples of the African Continent. He said Arab states have always and will always continue to stand on the side of this struggle to help these peoples and back their capabilities to confront tyranny and racial discrimination.

He also pointed to the economic and social problems on the African and Arab levels and said that international economic situation characterised by a denial of the rights of developing nations have led to the rise of the Third World countries' debts and the weakness of their capabilities to the demands of development. [sentence as received]

He then warned against Zionist infiltration into the African Continent, pointing out especially to the American Government's support for the Zionists in the financial, military and technical forms which he said have created the opportunity for Zionist attempts to infiltrate into the African Continent relying in the process on the huge aid received from the American and other Western European governments. He further expressed disappointment regarding the resumption by two African countries of relations with the Zionist enemy and denounced the call by agent Sese Seko to establish an African organisation for black African countries stressing that the purpose behind such a call was primarily aimed at undermining African-Arab solidarity and destroying the Arab and African struggle.

He also discussed the deliberate distortion by Western and Zionist media of African-Arab financial and economic cooperation whose objectives have been put in question. He said we and our brother Africans know that cooperation between the Arab and African groups is above limited interests and circumstances because it springs from a strong belief in the joint destiny, stressing that Arab-African relations are unlikely to suffer from humiliating plots because they have taken roots in the deep past and are strengthened by historical, geographical, civilisational and militant factors united by their fight against colonialism, backwardness and dependence.

He then referred to African-Arab relations pointing in this respect to the fact that the majority of Arabs belong to the African Continent and showing that 40 percent of the Arab nationalist product is African, that 50 percent of the African nationalist product has an Arab source and that the biggest share of the non-oil agricultural and mineral wealth of the Arab homeland has an African source.

Chadli Klibi also discussed the comprehensiveness of Arab-African cooperation according to resolutions endorsed by summits and by the Permanent Secretariat for Arab-African Cooperation.

He then called for implementing recommendations by the Permanent Secretariat for Arab-African Cooperation so as to carry out a joint programme of work in the fields specified by the first African-Arab summit conference especially in trade exchange between Arab-African groups, encouraging and guaranteeing reciprocal investment as well as in the scientific and cultural fields.

Algerian, Tunisian Officials Received

LD032045 Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 6, August 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Secretary of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau met today with Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister of Algeria, and Beji Caid Essebsi, foreign minister of Tunisia.

The meeting discussed the items of the agenda of the 7th session of the Standing Committee for African-Arab Cooperation and bilateral relations between Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and Jamahiriyah and Algeria as well as issues of common interest.

Committee Session Ends

LD042130 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Greetings brothers. We present you a report on the final session of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation which ended its work at 2000 today in Tripoli. The conferees addressed a cable of greetings and appreciation to the leader of the revolution for his sincere revolutionary stances against the imperialist and Zionist schemes. They presented their thanks and gratitude to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the hospitality with which the delegations were met.

Some of the most important points included in the political statement issued by the 7th session of the Committee for Arab-African Cooperation are:

The two sides record their admiration for achievements in the field of the Arab-African cooperation. They stress their commitment to these achievements and their insistence on combating all the regional racist calls for separating the north of the continent from its south. The two sides support the exchange of visits by delegations, and the meeting of the Arab and African groups at the level of the permament representatives in the international organizations to exchange views and coordinate positions, thereby coordinating the joint efforts to tighten the boycott against the two apartheid regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa. The two sides condemn the countries which support the two apartheid regimes, especially the United States, and expose its positions and they favor fulfilling the proven national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which are their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent national state. The two sides insist on the necessity of applying the UN Resolutions Nos 506 and 508 which specify the complete and immediate withdrawal without any conditions or restrictions from the Lebanese territories, on helping the Lebanese state and supporting its sovereignty and independence, on continuing the severance of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity, on condemning the escalation of the control of the apartheid South Africa over a majority of Africans, and on the necessity to expand embassies and deepen all fields of cooperation, consolidating diplomatic representation between the Arabs and the Africans, including the exchange of visits at the highest levels.

At-Turayki Receives African Officials

LD051120 [Editorial report] Tripoli JANA in English on 5 August in consecutive items reports Secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Laison at-Turayki meeting with the heads of three African delegations to the recently concluded meeting of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation. At 0936 GMT JANA says At-Turayki met with the Ghanaian foreign minister, adding that: "The meeting took up discussions of means capable of boosting Arab-African cooperation and stressed the importance of backing this cooperation through all means to make it a successful one."

At 0938 GMT the agency reports At-Turayki's meeting "yesterday evening" with the foreign minister of Bourkina Fasso and that they "discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries and Arab-African cooperation as well as international issues of common interest."

The last report at 0940 GMT notes that At-Turayki received "yesterday evening" the head of the Congo delegation and that the two sides "discussed bilateral relations between Jamahiriyah and Congo as well as Arab-African cooperation that would serve the joint Libyan Arab-African interests and objectives."

Press Statement Released

LD051704 Tripoli JANA in English 1403 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 8, August 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A press statement was released last night by the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation at the end of the proceedings of its 7th session. Following is its full text:

Upon an invitation from the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the meeting of the 7th session of the Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation was held in the city of Tripoli, amidst an atmosphere of friendship and as part of a spontaneous deeply rooted solidarity on which Arab-African relations are based, highlighting the respective concern for consolidating Arab-African cooperation, considering that it is a strategic method and righteous direction towards realising the aspirations of the African and Arab peoples towards liberation, sovereignty and development and considering that it is a unique and vanguard experiment in the framework of endeavours by developing countries to reaffirm their sovereignty over their resources and their confrontation of inadequate circumstances facing Arab and African countries in light of an unbalanced and unjust international economic order.

The Permanent Committee discussed a varied and extensive agenda which concentrated on significant issues that form a new support for relations of solidarity between Arab and African countries and a firm impetus for the progress of Arab-African cooperation.

In the political field the committee reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of Arab-African cooperation as well as its concern with backing their solidarity. It reiterated its principles and unalienable stands vis a vis the causes of Palestine, the Middle East, South Africa and Namibia and decided to continue to back the struggle of its peoples until the realisation of their independence, sovereignty and liberation from racism, Zionism and apartheid.

In this framework, the Permanent Committee endorsed a draft agreement for cooperation between the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity, an agreement related to boycotting both racist regimes in occupied Palestine and southern Africa.

In order to consolidate cooperation and reassert its comprehensiveness, the committee studied several economic programmes and issues which aim at entrenching political and economic independence and boosting the principle of self-reliance in the process of development. The committee also studied proposals on means to develop trade exchange and encourage and guarantee investments within the framework of Arab-African cooperation.

Bearing in mind the importance of the cultural dimensions of Arab-African relations, the committee studied joint educational and cultural programmes so as to deepen dialogue between Arab and African cultures that would entrench cultural independence at African and Arab levels and contribute to forming the Arab-African individual, proud of his background and civilisation.

In order to boost the progress of African-Arab cooperation and consolidate the ties of solidarity, the committee formulated the necessary measures to convene a joint foreign ministers conference in preparation for the second African-Arab summit conference.

The Permanent Committee has issued a comprehensive report which includes the results of its works achieved amidst an atmosphere of brotherly understanding that facilitated the adoption of resolutions capable of boosting Arab-African cooperation and consolidating relations of solidarity between the Arab and African countries.

The commendable preparations and facilities provided by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah had a significant impact on the success of the committee's proceedings, seen in the results achieved at the end of these, thus providing the committee with the opportunity to express its deepest gratitude to officials in Jamahiriyah and to the Arab-African people in Libya for the warm welcome and interest extended to it during the meetings, that both contributed to its success.

At-Turayki Hails Proceedings

LD051702 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 8, August 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Permanent Committee for Arab-African Cooperation ended the meetings of its 7th session yesterday evening after endorsing documents, resolutions and recommendations proposed to it.

Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, delivered a speech in which he hailed the efforts exerted by members of the committee as well as the brotherly constructive spirit prevailing during the meetings and the resolutions and recommendations adopted towards serving Arab-African cooperation. He said: It is a great honour for the Libyan Arab people, who belong to the Arab nation and African Continent, to host this session and contribute to boosting Arab-Africa cooperation relations. He then expressed his high esteem for the contributions by delegations participating in this meeting and pointed to the positive results realised during the gathering, stressing that it is a step forward in the historical strategic cooperation between the Arab nation and African Continent. Dr at-Turayki explained that the decision of the Arabs and Africans is coexistence and cooperation because their enemy is one and their aspirations and hopes are similar.

He emphasised that the united African Continent, with its north, south, east and west will remain in existence because it is the will of its peoples. The enemies of the continent could not return it to the stage of divisions since the strength of the Organisation of African Unity is in its unity and that of its peoples. Such unity will remain strong and constructive playing the historical role in building human civilisation. He then explained that the deep alliance between the racist regimes in occupied Palestine and southern Africa could only increase the solidarity between the Arab nation and Africa as this solidarity and cooperation are guarantees for the liberation of peoples and the liquidation of the imperialist-backed Zionism and racism.

At the end of his speech Dr at-Turayki expressed Jamahiriyah's admiration for the results realised during the meetings of the session.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah the deputy premier and foreign minister in Kuwait, also delivered a speech in which he said: At the end of our meetings here in the land of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, I would like to hail the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi for his valuable speech and vanguard efforts in entrenching and consolidating Arab-African cooperation. I would also like to thank the brotherly people of the Jamahiriyah for the warm welcome extended to us.

He said that the unification of Arab-African efforts to confront racist begimes in occupied Palestine and southern African demands action in all fields. Arab-African cooperation should be taken for granted and should not be an issue for discussion. Furthermore it should be part of the planning of a strategy for all Arab-African countries. Time and experiences have proved and will continue to prove the [word indistinct] of the destiny of the Arab nation and African peoples and the extent of the need to deepen and strengthen cooperation among themselves in order to preserve their interests and rights for a noble living, away from all forms of foreign exploitation.

He added that the Arab nation and African peoples have fully understood this reality and have for years tried to realise such a cooperation. No doubt that this meeting is a solid corner in the comprehensive strong Arab-African cooperation for which we aspire and work.

The foreign minister of Borkina Fasso also delivered a speech in which he expressed, in the name of the African group, the deepest gratitude and admiration for the Libyan Arab people and their leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who exerted all efforts to serve Arab-African cooperation and continues to urge towards realising constructive results for the service of this cooperation. He said: We value these efforts and this hospitality as well as the capabilities which enabled us to realise the results so far reached. We have been able to discuss the problems facing us in the process of cooperation and concentrated on finding adequate solutions to boost this cooperation and deepen our relations. We are fully convinced that these resolutions will have an effective impact on the process of Arab-African cooperation.

Africa, he continued, does not look at Arab-African cooperation as a mere tactical or limited or temporary action but as a strategic alliance based on the unity of destiny and struggle waged against imperialism, Zionism and apartheid. Therefore we must look upon Arab-African cooperation in this light and try to implement it according to this spirit. Furthermore we must exert all the necessary efforts towards this end and must believe that the issue of Arab-African cooperation is a vital and important one, that it is the kind of work we carry out because of our strong belief in Africa's ability to realise it.

MOROCCO

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD042052 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Jadallah 'Aziz at-Talhi, secretary of liaison in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ], arrived in Morocco this afternoon as a personal envoy to King Hassan II from Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi carrying a message to the noble king.

He was welcomed at the airport in Casablanca by the Interior Minister Driss Basri and the governor of greater Casab lanca Ahmed al-Fizazi and the governor of the Al-Hasani quarter 'Ayn ash-Shuqq Moulay Larbi Lawazzani and members of the staff of the SPLAJ Embassy in Rabat.

Moroccan-Libyan Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD031932 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Moroccan-Libyan cooperation has been consolidated by an agreement for cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation signed after the talks between officials of His Majesty's government and the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah that ended its visit to Morocco today.

For further details we leave the microphone for the radio correspondent in the economic capital:

The Moroccan-Libyan agreement was signed today. The agreement comes after the visit of the Libyan delegation to our country and which was led by the secretary of the Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, and after the meeting of the Moroccan-Libyan Higher Committee.

The agreement, signed in Casablanca, concerns cooperation between the two countries in the fields of posts, land, air and maritime transportation, and equipment and training.

It was signed by Transportation Minister Mansouri Benali, and Mr 'Abdallah ash-Shamikh Mubarak, the secretary of the Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport in the Libyan Government.

SUDAN

Shammu: 'Insecurity' Affects Oil Production

GF041202 Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 4 Aug (QNA) — Sudanese Minister of Information and Culture 'Ali Shammu has said that his country will not be able to export its oil in early 1985 as expected due to a halt in oil explorations due to the "rebellion of some opposition groups in the south which has created some instability."

In a statement published in today's issue of the newspaper *AL-BAYAN*, Shammu accused Ethiopia of setting up training camps for the rebels in its own territory, noting that the American Chevron Company halted its explorations because of insecurity.

He asserted that the Sudanese authorities have been able to control the situation and has asked the company to resume its activities or to transfer them to another company.

AFP: Troops Kill 663 Rebels in Past 2 Months

NC051555 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 5 (AFP) — Some 663 south Sudanese rebels have been killed in fighting with government troops in Upper Nile Province bordering Ethiopia over the past two months, *ARMED FORCES WEEKLY* reported.

Casualties among government troops were 21 killed and 57 wounded, the weekly said.

Yesterday's issue of the official Armed Forces newspaper carried the first full account of fighting between government troops and rebels in Upper Nile during June and July. The rebel offensive, which the weekly said was supported by Ethiopia, Libya and the Soviet Union, was made on a number of Upper Nile border towns.

'Source' Says Libyan Radio Instigating Sudanese

JN041955 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Aug (SUNA) — Libyan papers and other papers financed by the Libyan Government continue their campaign of vituperations against Sudan. Libyan radio stations also continue to heap abuse on and fabricate lies against Sudan and also instigate the Arab people and sometimes the African people in Sudan to revolt against the government in Sudan. Recently, the Libyan regime began addressing coded messages to what it calls revolutionary committees.

An authoritative source in the state security organ has spoken to SUNA about these Libyan radio broadcasts. He said: The method pursued by the Libyan radio confirms what the Sudanese Government has already explained to its people and the whole world; namely, that the Libyan regime harbors ill intentions against the Sudanese people. Whenever the Libyan regime feels that Sudan is making firm steps toward achieving security and prosperity, it resorts to such desperate attempts to hamper this progress.

The source told SUNA: We have noticed that Libyan conspiracies increase whenever the Libyan regime feels that Sudan is achieving greater development and getting closer to the day when it will be able to exploit its oil and mineral resources commercially.

The authoritative source in the state security organ told SUNA: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's plots against Sudan have not stopped and his hatred against Sudan increases every day, especially after the Sudanese people have faced him with their maturity and readiness to make sacrifices and also after they have uncovered his direct and indirect plots in which he uses all types of arms.

The source said: Al-Qadhdhafi's threats and warnings to Sudan as well as the allegations that he has been making, especially after his own people have shocked him with their internal opposition by the attack on the Al-'Aziziyah barracks, are only a cover for his continued plotting against Sudan.

The source added: The latest plot by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was the one uncovered by the security authorities. In this plot, several persons were arrested and quantitites of arms, including pistols with silencers for use in assassinations, were discovered. We have explained all that to the world, and we have many documents to prove it.

The source continued: Sudan has challenged the Libyan regime to follow its example. Sudan has announced that it will allow any international or regional commission to travel throughout the country to make sure that Sudan does not have any training camps for Libyan opposition elements or others.

The source told SUNA: We will continue with our present policy. Our eyes will continue to watch over the security of our people. All of us, government and popular organs as well as individuals, will watch every movement and every suspect. We will not rest until we have hunted down every suspect, hireling, and mercenary. We have confidence in our people, whether they are in the factory, the plantation, or their work. We will rush to our security organs to inform them of every plot and every suspect movement to stop the danger and to foil every plot against our people. The state security organ will keep its eyes and ears wide open to investigate every plot and to confirm every bit of information. The organ's powerful and faithful hand, which depends on God and the citizens, will also remain a sword that protects the homeland and the citizens.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Al-Qadhdhafi 'Special Envoy'

LD041354 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpt] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Ali 'Uthman Bilkhayr, assistant secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] General People's Congress and special envoy of Col al-Qadhdhafi to President Habib Bourguiba. The meeting was attended by Mohamed Mzali and the charge d'affaires of the SPLAJ in Tunisia.

Algerian Foreign Minister Pays Visit

LD031448 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Our Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi was at Monastir in Tunisia this morning where he conveyed best wishes for happiness and prosperity from President Chadli Bendjedid to the Tunisian president, whose 81st birthday is celebrated today. After arriving in Tunisia yesterday Dr Taleb had talks with the Tunisian prime minister, the interior minister and the foreign minister on the constantly growing bilateral relations between Algeria and Tunisia and matters of common interest. From Monastir the Algerian foreign minister is to go to Tripoli.

ETHIOPIA

2 FRG Hostages Held by Sudanese Rebels Released

NC031842 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Tebo, Ethiopia, Aug 3 (AFP) — West German hostages Klaus Frahm and Horst Peters were today handed over to Ethiopian authorities in this south-western Ethiopian village by anti-government rebels from neighbouring Sudan who had been holding them for 10 weeks.

However, the rebel leader who handed over the two said that four other European hostages held by his organization, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), would not be released until the French company which employed them responded to SPLA demands for a ransom.

The two West Germans were handed over personally by SPLA Commander in Chief John Garang to Belaineh Mengesha, deputy head of the European Department in Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The transfer took place in Tebo, a tiny village on the eastern banks of the Akobo River, which forms the natural boundary between Ethiopia and Sudan.

The two men, who worked for the German volunteer service in Juba, south Sudan, had lost weight and looked tired and haggard, but told reporters they were otherwise well.

The release follows last weekend's announcement by the Ethiopian authorities in Addis Ababa they had agreed to accept on humanitarian grounds a request from the SPLA to facilitate their release.

Mr Frahm and Mr Peters were later flown to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in an Ethiopian Army aircraft.

They were expected to undergo a brief medical check-up before being formally transferred to West German diplomats in Addis Ababa.

The hostage release was the second staged by the SPLA this year.

In March, they freed two other West Germans, Ursula Morson and her 18-month-old son Lloyd, but refused to release four others captured with them at a camp near the Jonglei Canal operated by the French International Construction Company (CCI).

The four others, who have been held by the insurgents since their seizure in February, are French technicians Michel Dupire and Yves Parissene, British technician Ian Bain, and Kenyan Pilot Gwynn Morson, Mrs Morson's husband.

Today, Mr Garang cast a heavy cloud on their future when he said those four hostages "shall never be released as long as the CCI remains intransigent to the SPLA's demands for ransom." They were well and would be taken care of "in the best way we can" but they would not be freed unless the CCI responded positively, he said. He accused the CCI of being "arrogant and negative" in reject(ing the ransom demand which, he said, included supplies of signal sets, medicines, and cash.

He would not specify the size of the cash ransom but charged the French company of refusing to negotiate directly with the SPLA. It was "beating about the bush" through intermediaries, he said.

The condition was being imposed both because the CCI had ignored previous warnings to halt operations in Sudan and because the SPLA had suffered losses of both men and equipment during the operation in which the hostages were taken, he said.

"Ransom was never our motive... If it was, we would never have released nine others seized three months previously, nor Mrs Morson or her son," he added.

The SPLA also reiterated a warning to other international companies operating in Sudan, particularly the U.S. oil company Chevron, which it accused it of backing the regime of Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in a campaign of "genocide" in the south of the country.

Chevron was responsible for "covert activities of arms trafficking for Numayri's regime," another SPLA spokesman said, citing what he called sources close to Chevron itself.

The spokesman, Elijah Hon Top, said the sources had revealed that the company had undertaken the covert activities through a U.S.-based firm called Arkell International Inc.

The aim was to establish a "security risk free zone" in southern Sudan, "a zone free of the indigenous people but full of oil," he charged.

Today's transfer took place in a village clearing, with SPLA units in the background staging a brief parade, singing patriotic songs, and raising their Kalashnikov rifles high in the air.

Wolde Cited on Eritrea, Somalia Issues, UK Role

PM031127 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 2 Aug 84 p 5

[David Adamson dispatch: "Ethiopia Seeks British Mediation With Arabs"]

[Text] Addis Ababa — Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, Mr Goshu Wolde, wants Britain to use its influence with the Arab oil states to stop the flow of funds to the Eritrean rebellion.

He claims that the secessionist guerilla movements which attended a recent conference in Saudi Arabia, had been offered 1.5 million pounds each if they agreed to unite, which three of them did.

"We apreciate the moderating role of the UK and we want it to impress on the Arabs that the integrity of Ethiopia is essential,$ he said in an interview which followed the visit to Addis Ababa last week of Mr Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

It was the first trip by a British Minister since the Ethiopian rvolution 10 years ago which overthrew the emperor, Haile Selassie.

Mr Rifkind's purpose was to examine whether Anglo-Ethiopian relations could be improved and to explore the prospects for peace in the strategically important Horn of Africa.

Apart from the Eritrean revolt, backed by most of the Islamic World including the Sudan, Ethiopia has an unresolved quarrel with Somalia, whose forces it ousted from the Ogaden in the war of 1977-78.

Mr Goshu believed that Britain, which has links with Somalia from colonial days, could play a useful role in settling that dispute, too.

But the approach to a settlement which he outlined was diametrically opposed to that proposed by the Somalis.

The Ethiopian position is that after the Somalis have formally agreed that the Ogaden is Ethiopian, talks could begin on demarcating the frontier between the two countries. Two years ago Ethiopia occupied two border settlements, (Balenbale and Goldagob), which are claimed by the Somalis.

The Somalis insist that Ethiopia must evacuate the two settlements before talks can begin on the Ogaden, whose people must be given the right of self-determination.

Mr Goshu noted that regarding Eritrea the proposals for a political solution to the long-running war would be contained in the party manifesto which will be published when the new Ethiopian Workers' Party is created either at the end of this month or early next.

The question of how much autonomy to grant Eritrea and other provinces is understood to have caused sharp differences among Ethiopia's Marxist-Leninist rulers.

The manifesto will provide the guidelines for whatever is finally incorporated in the new constitution which will not be ready until late this year or early next.

Mr Goshu, who was educated at Yale and did part of his training as an Army officer with the Royal Marines in Britain, admitted that relations with Britain were cool. He hoped Mr Rifkind's visit would help to improve the situation.

He emphasised repeatedly that the Ethiopian revolution was inward looking and not for export to other African countries. Ethiopia was not in the Soviet camp and it did not belong to any military alliance.

He denied firmly that Russia, which supplies Ethiopia with military advisers and arms, had been given a base in the Dahlak Islands, off the coast of Eritrea.

Ethiopia's relation with other countries, including the Soviet Union, would be based on national interest. He gave a warning that preserving the territorial integrity of Ethiopia would remain the government's supreme objective. He anticipated that the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the revolution in Sept 13 would bring adverse publicity in the West. He had not received an invitation from Mr Rifkind to visit London but would be "delighted" to make such a trip after the expected "uproar" over the celebrations was over.

TPLF Reports Results of Attack Against Ethiopian Forces

LD051502 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigre Revolution in Tigrinya 1345 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The heroic TPLF [Tigre People's Liberation Front] forces attacked an enemy force on (?1) August in southern Tigre, in particular in a place known as (Cumbi Rdea), causing heavy casualties and much damage to property. In the clash, which took place from 5:30 to 8:00 am, the heroic TPLF fighters killed or wounded 140 enemy soldiers, including the commander of the force, and captured 36 others. Fifty-six assorted weapons, 106 hand grenades, one radio communications set, five watches, and other assorted property were also captured. [passage indistinct]

SOMALIA

Statement Rebuts Ethiopian Claims of SDR Expansionism

EA051842 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] A statement issued by the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Foreign Ministry today declared that peace would only be achieved in the Horn region when the imperialist Abyssinian regime of Addis Ababa recognized that the final victory belongs to the people who are struggling for self-determination.

The statement added that the people who are living under Abyssinian imperialism will one day achieve their goals just as other colonized people did, since Abyssinian imperialism is no different from that of other imperialist powers who used to rule Africa but had to leave.

The official statement from the SDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in reply to a statement attributed to the Dergue foreign minister accusing the SDR of harbouring an expansionist policy. The statement further added that it has become a habit for the fascist regime to attribute false allegations to the SDR.

The fascist regime, as we know, is founded on imaginary dreams and in their wishful imagination they believe that they can mislead the world about the whole truth. As history indicates, before the emergence of Islam the Abyssinian kings and their kingdoms were confined to central mountains of Ethiopia. It was in the latter part of the 19th centrury that they began expanding to southern parts and north Shoa [Province] which until today is the capital of that country, says the statement.

The statement further added that the Abyssinian expansionism has affected its neighbors both in the east and south. Abyssinia has always been the only black colonialist government and has been known for centuries for its colonialism, expansionism, and imperialism.

The statement said the miserable situation prevailing in the country [Ethiopia] due to the bitter struggle being waged by the liberation fronts opposed to regime, the millions of refugees who have fled its terror regime, and millions of others who are being oppressed by its fascist troops, cannot be used as an excuse against its neighbors.

The statement released by the SDR Foreign Ministry said that millions of refugees who have fled Abyssinian colonialism are now living in neighboring countries, one and a half million of whom are living in the SDR. The Dergue regime has on many occasions tried to refute this fact. In 3 previous years it has attempted to receive international aid in the name of the refugees.

Radio Halgan: Fourth SNM Congress Opens 3 August

EA042045 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] The fourth ordinary congress of the Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition forces opened in one of the movement's centers yesterday. The congress was opened by chairman of the organization, Colonel Abd al-Qadir Kossar Ahmad, who addressed the delegates on the organizations' achievements since the third congress.

Reports from the fourth SNM congress say that the congress opened in a cordial atmosphere. Taking part in the congress are all the 47 SNM Central Committee members; 155 delegates from the organizations' various bases and centers; representatives of the Somali communities abroad, particularly Europe, the Arab world, East Africa, and North America; and also delegates from countries and organizations which assist, have friendly ties, and cooperate with the SNM.

The fourth SNM congress expects to produce tangible resolutions by the Somali opposition forces and the Somali communities which support the armed struggle against the anti-people regime led by General Barre.

The agenda before the congress includes the strategy of the armed struggle, how to promote opposition by the Somali community against the fascist regime of Mohammed Siad Barre, unification of the Somali opposition forces, and mobilization of the Somali community to fully participate in the struggle to hasten the fall of the moribund regime of General Barre.

The agenda before the congress also includes a reexamination of the SNM program and constitution.

The congress entered its 2d day today and is expected to be addressed by members of the Executive Committee of the SNM Central Committee and representatives from the bases in the country and the Somali communities abroad. The outcome of the congress and other reports will be broadcast shortly.

TANZANIA

Delegation Leaves for Joint Commission With Bulgaria

EA041442 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0700 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Summary] A Tanzanian delegation led by a minister of state in the president's office, Ndugu Mustafa Nyanganyi, left Dar es Salaam this morning for Bulgaria to attend the seventh session of the joint cooperation commission between Tanzania and Bulgaria, which opens on Monday.

Briefs

Ambassadors to PRC, Kenya — President Nyerere appointed today Ndugu George Kahama, former minister of natural resources and tourism, the country's new ambassador to the PRC. Ndugu Kahama replaces Ndugu Job Lusinde, who has been moved to Kenya. A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the appointment takes effect immediately. [Summary] [Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Aug 84 EA]

CHAD

Ndjamena Denounces Al-Qadhdhafi 'Ambiguity'

AB032355 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Commentary by Loni Dissou]

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi is continuing his attacks against Chad. Africans and Arabs went to Libya to talk about cooperation and to find means to promote the multidimensional relations existing between them within the framework of the Arab-African conference, the privileged forum traditionally used by the two entities to examine their common problems. and what is the tribune which Al-Qadhdhafi — Al-Qadhdhafi again! — chose to deceive Africa's vigilance by making an untimely reference to the Chadian issue.

As a matter of fact, there is no lack of matters for discussion when Africans and Arabs meet. Because of their long-standing relations, there are always matters of common interest to them. Africa is the heart of virtually the whole world's Arab population as half the number of Arab countries are located on this continent, which accounts for the importance of such a meeting. It was precisely before this gathering that the mad colonel of Tripoli curiously enough brought up the Chadian situation instead of speaking of Arab-African problems, as if this situation which he has created and fostered was an obsticle to his expansionist ideas. Perhaps Al-Qadhdhafi was ashamed to stand before the Arab and African delegates who had come to Libya to talk about cooperation, development, and the strengthening of their cultural and economic ties.

Al-Qadhdhafi, who is a past master of ambiguity, stated to his guests that it was France that rejected the simultaneous withdrawal he had put forward concerning Chad and that he has continued to extend a hand to President Hissein Habre in offering to drive out the French, the representative of colonialism in Chad and in Africa. These are the very words of the leader of international terrorism based in Tripoli.

The only response that Chadians, who are used to Al-Qadhdhafi's flights of oratory, can make is to brush aside that statement. However, the delegates attending the meeting deserve respect, so there is no use taking pains to refute these allegations.

We have all heard the statements of the Tripoli colonel about the withdrawal of his troops from Chad. At times he said he had no troops in Chad, at others he said he only had advisers in Chad, and eventually he said his troops were in Chad. In fact, more than 8,000 Libyan regular troops are stationed in Chad: Faya-Largeau, Fada, Ounianga-Kebir, to name only these towns, are occupied by the Libyans. Every Chadian knows this. Nobody, however, has been deceived by what Al-Qadhdhafi calls withdrawal. For Al-Qadhdhafi, this only means a withdrawal of histroops a few hundred kilometers from Chad in an effort to outsmart the French troops of Operation Manta. If they pulled back to France, this would make it possible for Libya to move deeper into Chad and occupy more than half of Chad as they do now. This is child's play in which France cannot be taken in.

So Al-Qadhdhafi has been irritated by the serene relations between France and Chad and by France's compliance with its agreement with Chad. This accounts for his untimely show yesterday at the Banghazi Arab-African conference.

Concerning his extended hand to President Hissein Habre, this is undoubtedly only a joke. We will not take Al-Qadhdhafi's outstretched hand because we know what it contains — the unconditional subjugation of Chad and the proclamation of an Islamic republic in Chad, a reality which would constitute the negation of Chad's identity.

ZAIRE

AZAP Reports Overwhelming Mobutu Victory in Election

AB051000 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0910 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 4 Aug (AZAP) — Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga obtained the majority of the votes cast at the presidential elections of 28 and 29 July 1984. He obtained 14,885,977 of the 15,012,078 votes cast, representing 99.16 percent.

These are the results of the presidential elections proclaimed on Saturday at the People's Palace by Citizen Kitima Amazanin, permanent secretary of MPR Central Committee and rapporteur of the fifth extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the MPR.

Belgium To Finance Railway Electrification

AB021250 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0905 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 2 Aug (AZAP) — Belgium is to finance the electrification of the Kinshasa-Matadi rail line for an estimated 4 billion Belgian francs (about $70 million), Zairian Prime Minister [as received] Kengo wa Dondo announced Tuesday.

Zaire has already obtained an initial loan of 1.5 billion Belgian francs for this project, which should be finished in 5 or 6 years, according to informed Belgian sources. A third of this loan was granted by the Belgian Government while the rest will be provided by the private sector, the sources added.

This project is expected to considerably improve the country's import and export capacity. Matadi, a river port some 100 km from the Atlantic Ocean, is the county's only sea outlet.

The official announcement of the award of the contract to Belgium comes shortly after President Mobutu Sese Seko's official visit to Brussels, observers note.

BENIN

Kerekou Announces New Government, Prefects

AB051310 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 5 Aug 84

[President Mathieu Kerekou's address to the members of the Revolutionary National Assembly, ANR, in Cotonou on 3 August 1984 naming the members of the National Executive Council — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrade members of the Central Committee of the Beninese People's Revolutionaty Party, Comrade President of the Permanent Committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly, comrade members of the Permanent Committee of the ANR, Comrade People's Commissioners: It is with great interest and a sustained and militant attention that we have followed the deliberations of the first ordinary session of our august ANR which was solemnly established in this very hall on Friday, 27 July 1984.

Comrade People's Commissioners, it is evident from the high level of your discussions that our people as well as our revolutionary party and state can rightly hope that the second legislature will give a new impetus to the ANR, the supreme organ of revolutionary state authority in the People's Republic of Benin. [applause]

Comrade People's Commissioners, as you know, Article 30 of our Constitution stipulates that the ANR is the supreme organ of the state in the People's Republic of Benin while Article 67 stipulates that the National Executive Council is the supreme administrative and executive organ of the People's Republic of Benin. The National Executive Council is accountable to the ANR, to whom it reports on its activities and assembly meetings.

It is therefore in pursuit of the systematic setting up of all these national democratic and revolutionary institutions that stem from the provisions of the second legislature that I have come before the Revolutionary National Assembly in my capacity as president of the Republic, head of state, and chairman of the National Executive Council, and on behalf of the Central Committee of our vanguard party, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, to discharge my militant and revolutionary responsibility in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 lines 9 and 11, 55 and 95 of the Constitution of 26 August 1977.

As you know, Comrade People's Commissioners, it is our duty to submit for your approval the list of comrades selected for the post of ministers and to elect from the list of comrades selected the chairman of the provincial administrative committees [words indistinct].

Here therefore is the composition of the National Executive Council Permanent Committee:

1. Minister Delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in Charge of Interior, Security, and Territorial Administration:
Captain Eduoard Zodehougan
2. Minister Delegate to the the President of the Republic in Charge of Planning and Statistics:
Zul Kifouli Salami
3. Minister of Rural Development and Cooperative Action:
Squadron Leader Adolphe Biaou
4. Minister of Equipment and Transport:
Gado Girigissou
5. Minister of Finance and Economy:
Hospice Antonio
6. Minister of Commerce, Handicrafts, and Tourism:
Captain Soule Dankoro
7. Minister of Nursery and Primary Education:
Captain Philippe Akpo
8. Minister of Secondary and Higher Education:
Lieutenant Colonel Michel Alladaye
9. Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sports:
Moussa Banjo Ali Traore
10. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs:
Andre Archade
11. Minister of Public Health:
Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Guezodje
12. Minister of Information and Propaganda:
Ali Houdou
13. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:
Affo Frederic Assogba
14. Minister of Justice in Charge of Inspection of Public and Semipublic Enterprises:
Didier Dassi
15. Minister of Defense and People's Armed Forces:
Mathieu Kerekou

The following were elected chairmen of the Committee for the Administration of Provinces [CEAP] or prefects of provinces:

1. Oueme Province Felicien dos Santos
2. Atlantic Province Soule Sambo
3. Mono Province Squadron Leader Martin Dohou Azonhiho
4. Zou Province Moustapha Elegbede
5. Borgou Province Gandonou Kodjia
6. Atacora Province Soule Moussa

The composition of the present cabinet, Comrade People's Commissioners, is not only the responsibility of the Central Committee of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, but especially the responsibility of the president of the Republic, head of state, and chairman of the National Executive Council.

Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

BOURKINA FASSO

Name of Upper Volta Changed to Bourkina Fasso

AB031430 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Presidential decree read by Staff Sergeant Georges Namouanou — live or recorded]

[Text] Decree No 84/043/CNR/PRES changing the name and symbol of the nation: The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state, considering the proclamation of 4 August 1983; considering Decree No 83/001/CNR of 4 August 1984 relating to the creation of the CNR; considering Decree No 83/021/CNR/PRES of 24 August 1984 relating to the composition of the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta, and considering Law No 47/10/707 of 4 September 1947 relating to the reestablishment of the Upper Voltan territory, decrees:

Article 1: The independent African territory limited in the north and northwest by the Republic of Mali; on the south by the Republics of Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, and Benin; in the east and northeast by the Republic of Niger and known as Upper Volta will be called henceforth Bourkina Fasso.

Article 2: Bourkina [as heard] is a democratic and popular republican state. It is one and indivisible.

Article 3: Fasso [as heard] is the legal and political entity and the inextinguishable hearth wherein blows the vivifying wind of the freedom and dignity which restores to the people all their greatness and makes them the natural ally of all the peoples of the world who share the same ideals of freedom and dignity. Fasso is the fatherland of the revolutionary people of Bourkina.

Article 4: The inhabitants of Bourkina are called Bourkinabe.

Article 5: The flag of Bourkina Fasso is made up of two horizontal bands of equal dimensions. The top band is red and the bottom one is green. The center of the line separating the two bands bears a golden star with five branches. The national anthem is called (Ditaniye). The national motto is: The fatherland or death, we will win.

Article 6: This decree, which comes into effect as of 4 August 1984 at zero hour, will be executed as a state law.

[issued in] Ouagadougou on 2 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

Ouagadougou Explains Name, Flag Changes

AB031620 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Commentary by Ouataoua Namien]

[Text] The changing of the name of our country and of the national anthem, national flag, and national motto may hurt the feelings of some people and appear to some other people as sacrificing substance to form. This is no doubt understandable but it is necessary that the changes that have just occurred should be placed in their right political context.

In the history of our country and people 4 August 1983 marked a deep political and ideological change of national importance. This new option imposes on us the need to reread our own history from the time of colonization to our political independence in 1960 and from that date to 1983 when neocolonialism tried to camouflage the structures of exploitation and domination. This second reading imposes on us the need to rewrite the history of this country and its people — a rewriting which will do away with the bourgeois and reactionary coloration which imperialism tried to give to our own political development.

Upper Volta was a product of imperialism which, at the Berlin conference, arbitrarily shared the African Continent. This dark period in the hsitory of the African peoples, however, forged a national sentiment owing to the common oppression and exploitation they experienced in their new territories. It was thus that the nationalities in the Volta region felt solidarity because they experienced the same fate.

But the name Upper Volta has got no root in any of the nationalities that built the image of this country. Upper Volta is a name which bears in itself a mark of foreign domination both in the language and its general character. [as heard]

By giving a new name to our country — a name coming from our native soil, Bourkina — we want to destroy the psychological obstacle and make a new start in all fields. Bourkina means dignity and is there a greater dignity than that of an oppressed and spoliated people who — at the end of a long struggle — finally recovered their honor and freedom? The term Fasso which accompanies Bourkina replaces the word republic and very much suits us, Africans, who attach great importance to our native home.

The national flag has also been changed and this is logical. The dominant color in our land and landscape are for us motives of hope and realism in the pursuit of our objectives. All this constitutes for all Upper Voltans motives of pride and a guarantee of the recovered dignity and freedom.

Rawlings Sends Message, Attends Celebrations

Congratulates Sankara

AB022145 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text][Ghana head of state] Flight Lieutenant Rawlings has sent a message of congratulations to the chairman of the National Revolutionary Council [CNR] of Upper Volta, Captain Thomas Sankara, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the August 4 revolution. In the message, Flight Lt Rawlings said the Upper Voltan revolution is part and parcel of the awakening of the masses of Africa against political oppression and economic exploitation perpetrated by a minority indigenous group in collaboration with external interest groups. The 4 August revolution of the people of Upper Volta, therefore, shares the same aspirations with the 31st December revolution of the people of Ghana. He said the patriotic peoples of the two countries, recognizing their common destiny, have come together to struggle for a better future. Their collaboration in pursuit of their common objective has extended into all spheres on national endeavor. Chairman [of the Provisional National Defense Council] Rawlings said of foremost importance to the two revolutions is the need to guarantee the security of their countries against destabilization in all its forms. The security forces of the two countries have therefore carried out joint excercises to attain a high level of preparedness to resist and to neutralize threats from within and without. He hoped the efforts of the two countries in this direction would continue for the consolidation of their true national sovereignty.

The chairman said the two revolutions recognize the important role of the masses as the bedrock of stability and progress. Side by side with the joint military exercise of the two Armed Forces, the defense committees of the two countries are also in the process of uniting their forces. He made it clear that this unity of the forces will result in the wider realization of unity between the two countries within the framework of African continental unity.

Flight Lt Rawlings said the 4 August revolution and 31 December revolution point to a bright future, not only for the peoples of the two nations but for the emancipation of the hitherto exploited and oppressed people of Africa.

'Warm Reception' Urged

AB031530 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings will arrive in Ouagadougou this afternoon. The purpose of this visit is obvious: The Ghanaian head of state is coming to attend the festivities of the first anniversary of our revolution which will reach their climax tomorrow with the military parade in which troops from friendly countries will participate, including, of course, Ghana.

It is not at all astonishing that Flight Lt Rawlings has decided to honor with his presence the first anniversary celebration of the 4 August revolution to which he greatly contributed through his constant and firm support. Through Comrade Rawlings, it is the entire Ghanaian people who are again demonstrating their support for our country's democratic and popular revolution.

This is why the militant people in the capital are called upon to come out in large number this afternoon at 1600 to give the warmest reception to the leader of the Ghanaian revolution, just as they did during his visit to our country last February, because our two revolutions have the same destiny.

In this connection, here is a press communique from the National Secretariat of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution: People of Ouagadougou, militants of the democratic and popular revolution, the great leader of the Ghanaian revolution, Comrade Jerry John Rawlings, will arrive here to joyfully attend — by the side of the revolutionary people of Bourkina Fasso — the activities marking the first anniversary of the popular uprising of 4 August 1983. Comrade militants of the Democratic Republic of Bourkina Fasso, let us all mobilize ourselves in order to give the great leader Jerry John Rawlings a warm reception worthy of the friendship and active solidarity between the two peoples. Comrades, all of you should get mobilized from 1500 this afternoon to give an unprecedented reception to the great leader Jerry John Rawlings who is expected to arrive at 1630. Let us mobilize ourselves for the consolidation of our two revolutions. For the friendship between the Ghanaian and Bourkinabe peoples, let us demonstrate our revolutionary sympathy by giving a warm reception to Comrade Jerry John Rawlings. The fatherland or death, we will win!

Arrives, Meets Sankara

AB032050 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The Ghanaian head of state, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, arrived in Ouagadougou late this afternoon. Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings will join his Bourkinabe friends in participating in activities marking the first anniversary of the August revolution. The Ghanaian president is now in our capital. He was met on arrival by Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state. Our comrade Patrice Seydou covered the arrival ceremony and will now give us a quick summary of the welcoming ceremony for the Ghanaian head of state:

[Begin recording] We are presently in front of the guest residence where the two presidents are holding talks similar to the ones they held at the airport. As you said earlier, Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings arrived soon after the scheduled time — he was scheduled to arrive at 1700 — that is around 1800 and the welcoming ceremony continues. In fact, to summarize what Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings said when he emerged from the plane — an interview which you may hear later — Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings said that it is altogether fitting for him to be present here in Upper Volta to celebrate with us the first anniversary of the victory over evil forces, and he also spoke of his recent visit to Nicaragua and Latin America.

Concerning these countries he said he was sure we would have questions to ask him, but we did not have the time to ask these questions. He had expected us to ask questions. He said that it is normal and natural to visit such countries because these countries have had the same experiences we have had; they have already had the experience before us. These countries are fighting to free themselves from the imperialist yoke of the reactionary forces and from the forces that struggle for the unhappiness of the people and for their own interests; therefore, by going to see and understand the revolution in these countries, we will be able to forge our own revolution. His visit to our country and his visits to the revolutionary Latin American countries are aimed at strengthening revolution in the world, strengthening the people struggling for their freedom, their dignity, and their survival.

After Chairman Jerry John Rawlings had finished speaking, a Ghanaian journalist who was in the room asked Comrade Chairman Thomas Sankara for his views on Chairman [of the Provisional National Defense Council] Jerry John Rawlings' visit to our country. Capt Thomas Sankara smiled and said that there is no need for him to explain this presence because it is altogether natural. The Ghanaians are at home here just us the Upper Voltans are at home in Ghana. This means that if a Ghanaian is presently in Ouagadougou, it is as though he were in Accra; therefore, he does not need to explain the presence of Jerry John Rawlings here since cooperation between Ghana and Upper Volta must be done in this way. This was an opportunity for Comrade Capt Thomas Sankara to say that Upper Volta considers Ghana as an objective ally. For as long as the Ghanaian people struggle for their revolution and independence, the Upper Voltan people will always be on their side to help them in their personal struggle. [end recording]

Sankara Speaks to Nation on Anniversary of Coup

AB040445 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0245 GMT 4 Aug 84

[President Thomas Sankara's National Day Address on 4 August in Ouagadougou — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] People of Bourkina Fasso: Since 4 August, you have been striving each day to demonstrate your determination to lay the material foundation of your existence. You have built airstrips, masterpieces, houses, roads, bridges, clinics, and schools. Through your efforts, the (Essourou) project has started. With the help of your friends, (Tombao) will soon be built and we will begin the exploitation of the gold at Sebba, the phosphates of Kodialani, and the multiple riches in your subsoil that have been discovered or are yet to be discovered. Through your mobilization since 4 August, you have achieved victories in the fields of health, housing, education, transportation, culture, and distribution circuits.

We need to establish order in the recovery of taxes and our customs system needs to be purified.

In all, we have put an end to the mistakes of the former government which dared once more, after its creation on 17 May 1983, to be called the People's Salvation Council. We have begun to instill moral values in our society and to proceed with the regionalization of the state machinery in all sectors. Comrades, you have accepted tackling the development task.

Hardworking People of Bourkina Fasso, you have given respect and consideration to the trade unions which constitute the first organizations of the working classes, the spearhead of any correct revolution. You are consulted for important national measures. The recent measures that were taken against the participants in the pro-imperialist strike that was launched by the reactionary leaders of the National Union of Upper Voltan Teachers prove that the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] does not act blindly but is lucid, discerning, truthful, and justice-loving in its actions.

A program is to be set up to reduce the unemployment we inherited and which may have reached dramatic levels if no revolutionary action had been taken to counter it. We will see to the consolidation of the people's power by explaining the political line of the Democratic People's Rally. The statutes of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] will be used in correcting the deficiencies in organization. All the methods and guidelines for action must be amended and readjusted through the revolutionary experience of our people. That is how we can constantly purify their political significance.

With regard to political renaissance, with particular reference to the CNR, measures will be taken to consolidate its leadership role and prevent wandering, deviation, and destructive bourgeois ideologies. The people have taken up arms and the keepers of the arms have returned to the people. This is a simple return to their origins. It is this doctrine of people's defense which enables us today to have one of the largest and, above all, one of the most mobilized armies with the most fighting spirit in Africa, yet this does not affect our budget.

The people will determine their economic needs, set new objectives through groups of economists which are being formed, produce and ensure the management of their goods.

This conception of our economic future implies in turn a new strategy of economic growth. This is why the CNR has chosen to make agriculture the nerve and the principal lever of our economic and social development. This choice of the agricultural sector as the nerve of our development is justified by many considerations. First of all, the developmental strategy in use now in Bourkina Fasso has not yielded the expected results. The strategy which consisted of investing first of all in the most profitable sectors in the hope that the benefits from these investments would accrue and serve to develop the other sectors has rather contributed to the disorganization of the national economy and to the worsening of social injustices between urban centers and rural areas.

After 23 years of independence, the major problem of the Upper Voltan [as heard] economy remains its inherent inability to ensure self-sufficiency in food supplies for the people. In other words, the present production of food crops does not even make it possible for each Upper Voltan [as heard] to eat 180 kg of cereals in a year, the generally acceptable quantity. As far as we are concerned, our desire to make agriculture the nerve of our development has no common measure with the kinds of priority granted to the rural sector in the previous plan. For the CNR, the point is to devote most of our investment and modernization efforts to the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry, especially in favor of food crops. This modernization policy, without which no social progress can be made, will be based on the increase in agricultural yield and on the actual development of all land that can be developed, as well as on the reorganization of agricultural production channels. Concerning this reorganization, the essential thing to do will be the introduction of agrarian reforms aimed at both a better organization of the farmers and the integration of agriculture and cattle breeding. Thanks to a policy of fair producer prices to farmers and cattle breeders, the increase in agricultural production will be maintained.

The revolution will be clarified and its options consolidated in achieving self-sufficiency in the long run in the field of basic commodities — especially food production — and manufactured goods such as equipment and other goods; in creating vital social facilities for the working masses in the fields of health care, education, housing, and culture; and in eliminating our economic dependence by restoring the major economic and financial equilibrium, especially through a gradual reduction of our economic and financial dependence.

The CNR will be clearly defined. New bureaus of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution will be set up. We will encourage women to organize themselves into revolutionary bodies.

Some Bourkinabe cadres often forget that if they were able to attend schools on scholarships, it was thanks to the sacrifices made by the people to whom they owe everything. The new tempo which we are going to adopt will be very demanding for all workers, civil servants, and cadres from whom we expect prompter responses, greater commitment and dedication to the task, as well as a greater spirit of initiative which will make them capable of working outside academic frameworks and will strengthen them through positive nonconformism.

The CNR is opened to everyone, including all those who have fought it out of ignorance, all those who have lost their privileges, those who have had their parents punished, as well as those who have lost the paradise of personal powers.

The CNR is not a sieve. It is opened to all men of good will, all patriots, provided they adopt and conform to the People's Democratic Rally rules. Through the CDR's and workers unions, our workers should be ready to assume their responsibilities on work sites and in factories so that instead of constituting electoral masses, they will become conscious and leading agents of the Bourkinabe economy. This is the first step of transition from the state of being just a pawn to the one of mastering the game.

Unions will have an even more significant role. We will grant more importance to the ones which toe the revolutionary line, to all anti-imperialist trade unions. The CDR's and trade unions complement each other, yet it is the movement that will be the most efficient and the most apt to defend the material and moral interests of workers which will win the confidence of the people.

People of Bourkina Fasso, vigilance is a revolutionary expectation in the face of all those who have not yet understood that the mobilized masses constitute an irresistible force. Our enemies, the enemies of the people, must understand that they have been beaten by their strongest opponent, that is, the people. They cannot take revenge on the people. They have shown patience, a lot of patience. But if violence is the only means of getting them to see reason, the CNR will make it its duty to use it in the implementation of all its measures.

Bourkinabe Comrades, our fellow countrymen have disappointed us a lot. At the onset of the revolution, some of them engaged in the battle. Soon after its birth, they began to show opposition. We warned them. We are quite indulgent toward them in the hope that they would finally understand us. This act of clemency was considered a sign of sentimentality on our part. In spite of this outstretched hand, they continued their plots and manuevers. We were obliged to arrest the diehards. Alas, their acrimonious destabilization process was escalated by numerous plots. Revolutionary legality and legitimacy dictated that we follow the people's desire against them, so utmost sanctions were used.

Nevertheless, this firmness which we have shown ourselves capable of does not prevent us from listening, observing, and attempting to win them back. that is why we have chosen to free certain elements to serve as a test. Their attitude toward the popular democratic revolution will determine in large measure the lot of those who will remain in detention.

Bourkinabe Comrades, I call upon you to understand all this and remain vigilant. People of Bourkina Fasso, happy anniversary! Happy revolutionary anniversary! Eternal glory to our people! Fatherland or death, we will win!

Clemency, Amnesty Granted on National Day

Sentences Commuted

AB040545 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Decree signed by President Thomas Sankara on 3 August in Ouagadougou — read by Sergeant Major Georges Namouana — live or recorded]

[Text] Decree No 84/289/CNR/PRES providing for presidential clemency on the occasion of the National Day on 4 August 1984.

The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state decrees:

Article 1. The prison terms handed down on the following persons are hereby commuted as follows:

Tchire Ba Amadou, sentence passed: 2 years; commuted sentence: 2 years suspended prison term.

Leonard Kalmogo, sentence passed: 7 years without possibility of appeal; commuted sentence: 4 years without possibility of appeal.

Moise Lankande, sentence passed: 7 years including 2 without possibility of appeal; commuted sentence: 7 years suspended prison term. Mamadou Sanfo, sentence passed: 1 year without possibility of appeal; commuted sentence: 1 year suspended prison term.

Article 2. The minister of justice and keeper of the seals is charged with the implementation of the present decree which will be published in the official newspaper.

[issued in] Ouagadougou, 3 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

Clemency for Ex-President, Prime Minister

AB040554 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Decree signed by President Thomas Sankara on 3 August in Ouagadougou — read by Sergeant Major Georges Namouana — live or recorded]

[Text] Decree No 84/290/CNR/PRES providing for clemency to those detained for administration offenses. The president of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state decrees:

Article 1. Clemency has been granted to the following persons detained on administrative charges: Maurice Yameogo [former Upper Voltan head of state]; Joseph Issoufou Conombo [former prime minister].

Article 2. The present clemency nullifies Decree No 83/72/CNR/IS of 17 August 1983 against these persons.

Article 3. The minister of interior and security, the minister of national defense and veterans' affairs are charged with the implementation of the present decree which will be published in the official newspaper.

[issued in] Ouagadougou, 3 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

Clemency for Former Officials

AB040616 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Decree issued by President Thomas Sankara on 3 August in Ouagadougou — read by Sergeant Major Georges Namouana — live or recorded]

[Text] Decree No 84/291/CNR/PRES providing for clemency to former members of government under house arrest. The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state decrees:

Article 1. The measure placing the following persons under house arrest and contained in Decree No 83/71/CNR/IS of 10 August 1983 has been repealed: Mrs Nignan, nee Bassole, Marie-Louise; Pascal Salo; Kouka Edouard Tapsoba; Francois Zoungrana; Alain Ouedraogo; Idrissa Yaya; Zani Gabriel Sombianou; Bouraima Zoronou; Andre Nomo; Mrs Lakourouma, nee Ouedraogo, Odile; and Seydou Konate.

Article 2. The minister of interior and security is charged with the implementation of the present decree which will be published in the official newspaper.

[issued in] Ouagadougou, 3 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

Amnesty for Certain Crimes

AB040728 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Ordinance issued by President Captain Thomas Sankara on 3 August in Ouagadougou — read by Sergeant Major Goerges Namouana — live or recorded]

[Text] Ordinance No 84/044/CNR/PRES on Amnesty. Given the proclamation of 4 August 1983; given Ordinance No 83/001/CNR of 4 August 1983 creating the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]; given decree No 83/021/CNR/PRES of 24 August 1983 on the composition of the Government of the Republic of Upper Volta; given Law No 13/61/AN of 9 May 1961 on the granting of amnesty, the chairman of the CNR and head of state decrees:

Article 1. An amnesty is hereby granted to those detained for the following crimes if committed before 4 August 1984: adultery; desertion of home; practice of sorcery, magic, and charlatanism.

Article 2. The scope of the present ordinance is determined by Law 15/61/an of 9 May 1961.

Article 3. Amnesty, however, does not affect the right of the Treasury, that is the legal expenses which will be recovered by all legal means.

Article 4. The present ordinance will be implemented as a state law.

[issued in] Ouagadougou, 2 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

'Exceptional' Clemency Ordered

AB040751 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Ordinance issued by President Captain Thomas Sankara on 3 August in Ouagadougou — read by Sergeant Major Georges Namouana — live or recorded]

[Text] Ordinance No 84/45/CNR/PRES providing clemency for the benefit of certain people sentenced by the people's revolutionary tribunals:

Considering the proclamation of 4 August 1983; considering Ordinance No 83/001/CNR of 4 August 1983 providing for the creation of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR]; considering Decree No 83/021/CNR/PRES of 24 August 1983 providing for the composition of the government of the Republic; considering the Ordinance No 84/042/CNR/PRES of 2 August 1984, the chairman of the CNR and head of state orders:

Article 1. As an exceptional case, clemency has been granted to the following named persons who have been sentenced. They will not be subjected to imprisonment for debt within the framework of the execution of the judgments passed against them by the People's Revolutionary Tribunals. They are Issifou Joseph Colombo, Pale Welte Issa, Tchire Ba Amadou.

Article 2: The present ordinance will be executed as state law.

[issued in] Ouagadougou, 3 August 1984

[signed] Captain Thomas Sankara

Communique on Reemployment of Dismissed Teachers

AB040757 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0345 GMT 4 Aug 84

["Communique of the National Council of the Revolution"]

[Text] In its struggle against counterrevolutionaries of all kinds, the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] decided on the dimissal of all the teachers who participated in the pro-imperialist strike of 20 and 21 March 1984. Since then the principled attitude of the CNR was not to reverse this decision. However, in view of the demonstrated improvement in conduct by these teachers, the CNR has decided to reemploy some of them and authorize the others to seek employment in the private sector. Regulations will be issued later specifying the conditions for reemployment in public or private establishments and providing a list of names of those to benefit from this clemency.

Fatherland or death, we will win!

Ouagadougou, 3 August 1984

French Official on Relations, Cooperation Agreements

LD051534 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Bourkina Fasso celebrated the coming into office, 1 year ago, of Captain Thomas Sankara.

The cooperation between Bourkina Fasso and France should not be affected by the revolutionary orientations of the country even if it is reorganised on new bases. This is what stands out in the declaration to our special correspondent in Ouagadougou, Noel (Velie), by the French representative at yesterday's celebrations, that is, Jean Gatel, the secretary of state in charge of social economy.

[Begin Gatel recording] It was important to stress the will of the president of the French Republic and his government, through my presence here today, to show the bonds of very deep friendship which exist between the two countries. Also, we have [word indistinct] on the agreements which are under study; they are cooperation agreements which are in the middle of being negotiated and which, in all likelihood, will be concluded in the forthcoming weeks, following the delay caused by the government reshuffle, on the French side, and on the Upper Voltan side by the change of name of the country. I think that these agreements will be concluded, I hope, by the end of August. We reviewed matters linking the two countries and I reiterated France's position in Africa, that is, that we have a deep respect for the model of development of our African friends. Also, I wanted to assure Captain Sankara that we were not judging his model of development, that he could therefore continue believing in France's friendship and assistance, and that this assistance might be more extensive and certain than that of some others which [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Christian Nucci, the French minister for cooperation, is to go to Bourkina Fasso from 14 to 16 August where he is to sign the new Franco-Bourkina Fasso cooperation agreements.

LIBERIA

Five Political Parties To Contest Elections

AB031955 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT
3 Aug 84

[Text] There are plans for the formation of another political party in Liberia. This will bring to five the number of political parties organized to contest the elections which will return Liberia to civilian rule. A release issued by Moja, the Movement for Justice in Africa, yesterday said the movement has already formed a provisional committee chaired by Dr Amos Sawyer, a political science professor at the University of Liberia. The release said the committee will temporarily coordinate Moja's activities in the country and prepare the groundwork for the formation of the party.

Already four political parties have been organized to contest the elections which will return Liberia to civilian rule. Mr G. Bacchus Matthews announced the formation of a United People's Party just a couple of hours after the lifting of the ban on politics on 26 July. The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel K. Doe, has also announced the formation of a party to be known as the National Democratic Party of Liberia. There is another party organized by a lawyer, (Willie Upperton), which is also known as the National Democratic Party, and yesterday a former teacher, Gabriel Kpoleh, announced the formation of the Liberian Unification Party. The Special Election Commission is expected to issue guidelines shortly to guide various parties hoping to contest the elections scheduled for October next year.

NIGERIA

Government Not Considering Commonwealth Withdrawal

AB030810 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Nigeria says she is not considering quitting the Commonwealth of Nations. They country's acting high commissioner to British, Mr (?Bitrus) Dimka, stated this while opening an exhibition of Nigerian textiles at the Commonwealth Institute in London. Mr Dimka said that speculations in the international press about Nigeria leaving the Commonwealth were part of the crusade to embarrass the country. He said that Nigeria will not go back on the pledge of the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, that the country will remain committed to the programs and the ideals of the Commonwealth.

Ambassador Dimka however said that Nigeria will not condone any action by any member of the Commonwealth which could jeopardize the overall interests of the organization. The acting high commissioner expressed regret that in spite of appeals by some members of the Commonwealth, Britain, a senior member of the organization, invited racist South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha to visit the United Kingdom and allowed the English Rugby Union to tour South Africa. Both actions, he said, have gone a long way to undermine the spirit behind the formation of the Commonwealth.

Nigerian textiles on display at the exhibition include local fabric like Adire, Ashooke, Akuete, hand-embroided Hausa blankets, and Fulani wedding dresses. The exhibition, which will last 2 months, will feature practical demonstrations in the craft of weaving.

Defense Minister Returns From Visit to USSR

AB032010 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The minister of defense, Major General D.Y. Bali, is back in Lagos after a 1-week official visit to the Soviet Union. During the tour, Gen Bali held discussions with his Russian counterpart on issues ranging from servicing military equipment, spare parts, and the training of personnel.

Governor: Bauchi To Control 'Religious Fanatics'

AB040842 Lagos NAN in English 0740 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Bauchi, August 3 (NAN) — Religious fanatics of Bauchi origin who have been identified to spearhead recent religious disturbances in Gongola and Borno States are to be "arrested and brought to book," the military governor of Bauchi State, Brigadier Sani Sami, said today.

The governor gave the indication while receiving the report of a committee of the military administration in the state appointed earlier to look into Islamic affairs in the state with a view to forestalling any religious disturbances in the state. He said that with the religious disturbances that have taken place first in Kano, then Borno, and recently in Gongola States, Bauchi State could not remain idle in the face of such threats, hence the need for the committee. He noted that the Federal Government itself was interested in the report of the committee.

Brig Sami commended the committee for producing what he called a comprehensive report and gave the assurance that its recommendations, aimed at "stamping out" religious friction and eventual disturbances, would be implemented. Earlier the chairman of the committee, Dr Aliyu Abubakar, had thanked the governor for affording members of his committee the opportunity to serve the state adding that the committee had the full support of emirate councils in the state and all the 16 local government councils in the state while compiling the report.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Portuguese, DPRK Officials

MB040847 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the Republic, yesterday received in Luanda Lieutenant Colonel Melo Antunes, an adviser of Ramalho Eanes, the Portuguese president.

The head of state also received Chong Song-nam, the DPRK minister of external economic affairs, who was in Luanda to chair on behalf of his country the proceedings of the Angolan-DPRK joint commission.

The first meeting of this commission ended yesterday with the signing of an agreement concerning the experimental cultivation of a 50-hectare rice field in Angola to study methods adaptable to Angola's climactic conditions. The result of that experiment will determine if cooperation between the two countries in the field of rice cultivation will increase. The agreement also covers the field of fisheries, where it was decided to create a joint enterprise involving Angolan experts and four DPRK experts to be sent to Angola for that purpose. Finally with regard to this agreement, the electrification of Angola's rural areas and the utilization of the Umbeluzi River in Zaire Province will begin.

A total of three DPRK experts will be sent to Angola to carry out the electrification of the rural areas together with their Angolan counterparts, while the DPRK will grant Angola a loan to provide finance and equipment to utilize the Umbeluzi River. Another three DPRK experts will come to Angola to collaborate in the management of the construction materials industry while 20 more will work with Pescangola [Angolan State Fishing Enterprise].

The two countries have also decided to increase their trade. The proceedings of the first session of the joint commission were chaired by Evasristo Domingos, the Angolan minister of agriculture, and Chong Song-nam, the DPRK minister of external economic affairs.

MOZAMBIQUE

RENAMO Says Talks Underway With Government

MB031527 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The BBC quotes a spokesman for the Mozambican National Resistance [RENAMO] movement as saying that talks for the Mozambican National Resistance talks are underway with the Mozambican Government to try to end the 7-year-old civil war.

The RENAMO spokesman, speaking in Lisbon, said senior officials from both sides were meeting in an unnamed African country to work out a peace settlement, and that this could become effective as early as the end of this month. There has been no official confirmation of the talks, and a BBC correspondent in Lisbon says the Mozambican Government has twice before denied similar RENAMO announcements. Nevertheless, he says, diplomats in Lisbon are convinced there is considerable behind-the-scenes activity to try to find a solution to the increasingly desperate security situation in Mozambique.

Government Denies Holding Talks

MB031819 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] A senior Mozambican Government official today in Maputo categorically denied recent allegations that the government is holding negotiations with the Mozambican National Resistance armed bandits. The official has told the Mozambique news agency that the government cannot negotiate with former colonialists and criminals. The official said it is strange that responsible circles of the international media should continue to propagate false news without any basis.

The official was commenting on a new series of recent reports in the international media alleging that the Mozambican Government has been holding talks with the armed bandits. The official said the armed bandits are suffering heavy setbacks in all the provinces of the country and that their liquidation is now only a matter of time.

Chissano Says Nkomati Accord Being Implemented

MB041217 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano has said in Lisbon that the Nkomati Accord was being progressively implemented and Mozambique had no reason to complain against the South African Government. This was revealed in today's edition of *NOTICIAS*.

The Mozambican foreign minister, who was in the Portuguese capital in transit for Bissau, pointed out that the problems that arose were being discussed with Pretoria. Minister Chissano said, however, that not all the sectors of the South African society are in favor of the Nkomati Accord. Accordingly, interests in contradiction with those of the Pretoria Government maintain their support for the armed bandits who carry out actions inside Mozambique. Joaquim Chissano added that Mozambique continued with its contacts and talks with South African officials at various levels.

The Mozambican foreign minister, who was speaking to the Portuguese news agency, said that the armed bandits have always had the support not only of South Africa but also of certain sectors of the Western world and even of certain Portuguese circles. On the support rendered to the armed bandits by some Portuguese circles, Joaquim Chissano said that the issue would be discussed between the leaders of Mozambique and Portugal next month during the visit to Maputo by Prime Minister Mario Soares and Foreign Minister Jaime Gama.

NAMIBIA

UDF Supports SWAPO's Stand on Walvis Bay

MB041036 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Members of SWAPO have met representatives of the United Democratic Front [UDF]. The SWAPO delegation at yesterday's meeting in Johannesburg was led by (Ndimba) Toivo ja Toivo and SWAPO Vice President Pastor Witbooi.

UDF publicity secretary Terror Lekota says his organization supports SWAPO's call that Walvis Bay be included in Namibia:

[Begin Lekota recording] We demand the inclusion of Walvis Bay in Namibia, and we fully support the SWAPO stand that the issue is nonnegotiable. We call upon the Colored community in Walvis Bay not to vote in the coming August elections as they are undemocratic and will undermine the unity of the people of Namibia and the people of South Africa. [end recording].

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Reportedly To Visit Ivory Coast

AB050915 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Pretoria: South African Premier Pieter Botha [title as received] is preparing to visit Ivory Coast, the Johannesburg daily *STAR* reported. The South African Foreign Ministry refused to deny or confirm the report, which said a request by Mr Botha to visit the West African country had been accepted by Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. According to speculation here, Mr Botha may also go to Zambia, Zaire and Gabon.

Government Refuses Comment

MB041047 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1008 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Pretoria, Aug 4, SAPA — The South African Government today declined to comment on reports that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, is to go on an official tour of black Africa later this year.

According to reports from Abidjan, the Ivory Coast has already agreed to receive him and preliminary arrangements have also been made.

Speculation is that Mr Botha's itinerary on the tour — which was first rumored to be on the cards shortly after his return in June from an eight-nation tour of Europe — will include Zambia, Zaire, and Gabon, among other states.

A spokesman from the prime minister's office said it was the first he had heard of the reports, saying that if anyone was going to comment, it would be the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Approached in Pretoria, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said: "I have no comment."

With South Africa's new tricameral parliamentary system to come into effect on September 3, Mr P.W. Botha has a busy programme at present and if the tour is on, he will travel in his expected new capacity as the executive state president.

Parliamentary business in Cape Town will occupy most of September, so the earliest the tour could take place would be in October.

Government Says 31,000 Cubans in Angola

MB021936 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 2 Aug 84

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs says allegations by Mr Adrian English in a recent article in the magazine *JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY* that there are only 5,000 Cuban troops in Angola is completely without foundation. The department says in a statement issued in Pretoria that according to reliable South African sources there are up to 31,000 Cubans — 6,000 civilians and 25,000 soldiers — in Angola at present. According to the department, this estimate of the Cuban presence tallies broadly with the estimates of most Western intelligence services which range from 25,0000 to 35,000.

Pik Botha Refutes Lange on Consulate in New Zealand

MB041101 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1041 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] Pretoria, Aug 4, SAPA — The allegation by New Zealand's prime minister, Mr David Lange, that the South African Consulate in Wellington was advised by its government to close without further ado did not tally with the facts, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Pretoria today.

In a hard-hitting statement, he said the South African Government had been given no choice after Mr Lange, "under pressure from his left wing," launched an uncalled for and unreasonable attack on South Africa in a television interview last Sunday and said the consulate would be phased out.

Mr Botha explained the background to the issue in his statement and said he did not consider it worthwhile to comment any further on Mr Lange's "antics" because the New Zealand premier [as received] would soon realise his obsession with South Africa would not solve his own country's economic and other problems.

What had happened was that the South African consulate-general, Mr A. Harvey, had repeatedly tried to establish what Mr Lange's official standpoint was and that various possibilities had been discussed informally. "At no stage did the consulate-general receive an official and categorical communication from the New Zealand Government.

"While informal discussions were still taking place, Mr Lange, under pressure from his left wing, made an uncalled for and unreasonable attack on South Africa in a television interview and said the office would be phased out.

"I asked our consulate-general to establish immediately precisely what was going on in Mr Lange's head," Mr Botha said. The only answer Mr Harvey had been able to get was that Mr Lange would issue a statement later in the week on the phasing out or closure of the consulate.

"After the text of Mr Lange's television interview was received, the South African Government summarily decided to close the consulate.

"Mr Lange is contradicting himself. When he is accused of leaving the South African Government no choice, he justifies his actions by saying we decided ourselves to go," the foreign minister said.

"When he has to answer to the accusation he did not put his standpoint continously and clearly to the South African Government, in the usual manner, he says this was done.

"I do not consider it worth the trouble to comment any further on Mr Lange's antics.

"If the New Zealand premier is genuinely concerned about the people of Africa he was welcome to provide a few hundred thousand of the 1.5 million workers in South Africa from other African countries with jobs in New Zealand.

"I really hope Mr Lange will quickly come to realisation that whatever he has to say about South Africa or Africa is completely irrelevant," Mr Botha said.

Prime Minister Comments on Economy Measures

MB031215 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says the fairly comprehensive measures announced last night are both timely and essential to strengthen the economy and keep it healthy.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of Volkskas Bank in Pretoria, he said the government was also having a close look at the fiscal side of its financial policy package. Mr Botha said the measures reflected the resolve of the government and monetary authorities to ensure that the whole economy was healthy at a time of difficult external and internal circumstances.

The prime minister said the measures should slow the growth rate of the money supply and in the long term have a favorable influence on inflation. They should also encourage saving and strengthen the balance of payments.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Calls for Party Leadership Code

MB041204 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Text] The president of ZANU-PF, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has emphasized the need to establish a leadership code which will give guidelines for all party leaders from the grassroots to the top. He says the present situation where some leaders continue amassing wealth is unhealthy, and the party wants it corrected.

Comrade Mugabe was addressing ZANU-PF Central Committee and provincial leaders at Victoria Falls this morning. The leaders were discussing the program for the forthcoming ZANU-PF second congress, which opens in Harare on Wednesday. He said the question of leaders amassing wealth will be discussed thoroughly at the congress, and once a decision is taken, it will be final.

The prime minister said the congress should establish a comprehensive program which will deal with all aspects of national development, including the establishment of better education facilities and the provision of land to all. Comrade Mugabe also emphasized the need for delegates to keep time during the congress because the program will be tight. He spoke out strongly against tribalism and regionalism, saying these are evils which can destroy a nation.

ZANU-PF has invited delegates from the socialist countries and progressive parties in capitalist states to attend the congress. An estimated 6,000 delegates are expected to join more than 300 visitors, including some heads of state, at the historic second congress.

Mugabe Outlines Issues for Party Congress

MB050626 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] The president of ZANU-PF and prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has outlined some of the issues to be discussed at the national congress of the party which begins in Harare on Wednesday. Speaking on the Zimbabwe Televison News Special last night, Comrade Mugabe said the congress is to restructure the party to enable it to gear itself towards transforming the Zimbabwean society. He said the congress will be assuming the top-most role as a decisionmaker for the nation, a top-most organ that dictates policy to the government, and the socialist transformation to be followed by the country.

Comrade Mugabe said a new leadership of the party will be chosen, and this will adhere to the Marxist-Leninist ideology of thinking. He warned against bringing into the party people who are not committed, and the leaders chosen should be those who have been tested because they will provide continuity to the revolution. The prime minister said the congress will also consider the leadership code, which was rigid. The basis of a 1-party state will be decided upon and taken to the people before the next general elections. He said once adopted by the people, the Constitution will be changed accordingly.

Comrade Mugabe said the congress, which he described as the most important event in the country's history, will review the next development plan and the establishment of an executive president. He said many people have been invited to the congress, including the chairman of the OAU, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia.

Discusses Corruption, 1-Party State

MB060606 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Aug 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has assured the nation that his government will not entertain any form of corruption. Speaking on the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, ZBC, program "The Nation" last night, Comrade Mugabe said anyone who is convicted of corruption will be punished severely. However, he said the government will not act on rumors or suspicions, adding that every alleged case of corruption should be supported by facts and convincing evidence.

The prime minister also said the resettlement program is far from being satisfactory. He expressed optimism that the British Government will in future provide more financial aid for this exercise.

Comrade Mugabe built on the forthcoming ZANU-PF national congress, which he said should be able to provide dedicated leaders. He admitted that some of the present leaders are not committed to the party's socialist policy. The prime minister said it is therefore necessary to have a leadership which is well schooled in this ideology first before the party thinks of teaching the masses.

On the issue of the one-party state, Comrade Mugabe emphasized that what Zimbabwe needs is national unity, adding that the one-party state would not necessarily yield dictatorship.

SAPA on Mugabe Remarks

MB050946 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0824 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Harare, Aug. 5, SAPA — Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party would try to remove entrenched sections of the bill of rights from the country's constitution to pave the way for a one-party state, the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said here last night.

He described the constitution as "a piece of paper" that could not usurp "the wishes of the people."

Commenting in a television interview on ZANU-PF's second party congress, due to start this week, Mr Mugabe said the introduction of a one-party state was in conflict with an entrenched section of the constitution permitting free association.

Another entrenched section Mr Mugabe said needed alteration was that reserving 20 seats in the 100 seat House of Assembly for whites.

The congress would be asked to approve a constitution that called for the adoption of a one-party state, as well as an executive presidency, and to reject the present system, in which the head of state is a titular positon.

Mr Mugabe also hinted strongly that he expected a party executive to be elected that would not be markedly different from the present executive. He said be believed "some of the tried leaders should be retained."

He also promised that the congress would introduce a "leadership code" containing a list of "high standards" of conduct to be followed by party leaders, to ensure that no one elected to high office in the party failed to "cherish the ideals of socialism."

The presidents of all the Frontline States had been invited to the congress, as well as the president of the OAU and Ethiopian president, Mr Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Delegates from Hungary and North Korea were expected to arrive today.

Masire, Kaunda, Others To Attend Party Congress

MB031715 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The ZANU-PF has invited delegates from socialist countries and progressive parties in capitalist states to attend the forthcoming national congress which starts in Harare next Wednesday. This was disclosed by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who is also president of the ZANU-PF, in an exclusive interview with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation to be screened on the Zimbabwe Television tomorrow at 2015.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told ZIANA today that President Quett Masire of Botswana and Dr Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia have confirmed that they will attend the congress. The spokesman said the party is expecting between 150 and 200 delegates.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the ZANU-PF national fund raising committee, Comrade Didymus Mutasa, has disclosed that the party has so far raised about 2 million dollars for the congress. He said 378,550 dollars was raised through dinner dances and soccer matches, and other donations came from private organizations.

RSA Paper Interviews Nkomo on Mugabe's Policies

MB051106 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 5 Aug 84 p 4, 5

[Text] Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's constant calls to "rally round the flag" are crippling his country, according to opposition leader Joshua Nkomo.

In an exclusive interview with *CITY PRESS* in his Bulawayo home, Nkomo spoke out against Mugabe's attempts to gain support for his ZANU party in the build-up towards its congress in Harare on Wednesday.

"People are getting fed up," he warned. "They can't get on with their activities, their farming, because of all this talk of 'pamberi' (forward) and 'pasi' (down)."

"The youth brigades are going out, forcing people to attend meetings all the time, so they don't have time to do anything else."

Nkomo said the ZANU congress would be "riddled" with the tribalism which has troubled Zimbabwe recently.

"We were fighting racism before, now regionalism is being promoted," he said, "I am not certain that Mugabe is not a regionalist. If he really wanted to stamp it out, he could not fail to influence things otherwise.

"Regionalism is not only promoting inefficient government, it is tragic for the country, too."

He added wryly: "At the congress, people will be voting for socialism, when most of them don't even know what it means."

Nkomo also severely criticised the way Mugabe was going about fulfilling his dream of a one-party state — in particular the way he was "hounding" the opposition ZAPU party.

He said recent publicised defections from ZAPU were "because people are buying ZANU cards to save their lives.

"Mugabe has been in politics a long time. He should know people don't queue suddenly, overnight, to buy cards, in their thousands. This is coercive persuasion.

"People may hold ZANU cards, but ZANU is not in their hearts," he claimed. "Mugabe knows that."

Nkomo said ZAPU was finding it difficult to operate as a political party because of ZANU's "unconstitutional" behaviour — and pointed to the deaths of two ZAPU candidates prior to provincial elections in the Midlands recently. This followed a raid on ZAPU offices where documents, including documents with the names of candidates, were stolen.

He also claimed a torture camp had been set up in Bulawayo behind the Mzilikazi police station.

"This is an open secret here, because people have told us they were tortured there. It's the most horrible place in the country.

"If that is the way Mugabe is going to run the elections, it's a sad day. He may have a one party state that way.

"What is he afraid of? Why doesn't he hold a referendum, or a special election to find out what people want," Nkomo asked.

"If people can vote freely and fairly and they vote for it, then he has got it.

"But our people are not naive, they see what is happening, while they are holding their ZANU cards. Prices are rocketing, there is unemployment everywhere — and do people want a man who has failed to rule them forever?"

He said: "When we were out of the country, there was a lot of killing among ZANU, and we thought maybe it was the frustrations of exile. Now I wonder if killing isn't their policy.

"ZAPU could never have done the things which have happened in the last three years."

Nkomo concluded: "I am sad that things are the way they are. It's tragic.

"No, I don't fear for my safety.

"I can say I suffered hell under Ian Smith.

"But it's been worse hell in the last three years under Mugabe."